



Le Livre de
Mipus

by nime



Richardson + Stone
1538

Richardson
1538



[This is the Royall Lyte of Thebes.

The which is the daughter of King
 Egypte that played the game of
 the Lyte of Thebes.

Youngs that be in the land
 in country & in town

shall be turned up & down

Prologus

Here begynneth the prologue
of the Storye of Thebes.

Whan bryghte phebys passed
was the Ray
Myd of Aprill & in to the Bo
le cam
And Satourne olde . with
his frosty face

Phebus in
Arcture

Saturnus
in Virgine

In Virgine. taken had his place
Melencolyke. and slouch of morpore
And was also. in choppolycyon
Of Lucyna the mone. moyste and pale
That many shoure. fro heuen made auale
Whan Aurora. was in the morow red
And Juppiter. in the Crabbes bed
Hath take his paleys. and his mansyon
The lusty tyme. and Joly fresche season
Whan that flora. the noble myghty quene
The soyl hath clad. in newe tender grene
With her floures. craftely meynce
Bianche & bough. with red & whyte depeynce
flectyng the baume. on hylles and on vales
The tyme is soth. whan Canterbury tales
Compleat and tolde. at many sondry stage
Of estates. in the pylgrimage
Everyche man. lyke to his degree
Some of despoite. some of moralite



Jupiter in
capite cacti

a ii

Veritas temporis filia

Prologus

The Lokke
Myller & p
Reue

Pardoner

Chawcer

Some of knyghthode. lone and gentyllesse
And some also. of partyte holynesse
And some also. in sothe of Rybaudrye
To make laughter. in the companye
Eche admytted. for none wolde other greue
Lyke as the Lokke. the Myller and the Reue
Aqunte hemselfe. shortly to conclude
Hoytously in her termes rude
Whan they hadden. well dronken of the bolle
And eke also. with his pyllid nolle
The Pardoner. beerdles all his chyn
Glasy eyes. and face of Cherubyn
Tellyng a tale. to angre with the frere
As openly. the story can you here
worde by worde. with euery circūstaunce
Echone I wryte. and put in remembraunce
By hym that was. yf I shall not fayne
floure of poetes. thorough out of all Bretayne
whiche sothly had. moost of excellence
In Rethoryke. and in eloquence
Rede his makynge. who lyst the trouthe fynde
whiche neuer shall. appallen in my mynde
But alwaye freshe. be in myn memorie
To whome be yue. pryncesse honour and glorie
Of well sayeng. fyrste in our langage
Chyfe registryer. in this pylgrymage
All that was tolde. forgetyng nought at all
fayned tales. nor thyng bystoryall

Prologus

With many proverbes. dyuerse and vncouth
By reherlaye. of his sugred mouth
Of eche thyng. heppynge in substaunce
The sentence hole. withoute varpauce
Doppyng the chaff. sothly for to sayn
Enlumynyng. the trow pyked grayn
By crafty wrytyng. of his lawes swete
fro the tyme. that they dyde mete
fyrste the pylgrymes. sothly everychon
Atte the Tabard. assembled one by oon
And fro Sothwerke. sothly for to seye
To Canterbury. rydynge on her weye
Tellyng a tale. as I reherse can
Lych as the hoost. assygned every man
Noon soo hardy. his byddynge dysobeye
And this whyle. that the pylgrymes leye
Atte Canterbury. well logged one and alle
I not in soth. what I may it calle
hap or fortune. in conclusyon
That me befelle. to entre in to the touyn
The holy Saynt playnly to vylte
After my lykenesse. bowes to acquyte
In a Cope of blake. and not of grene
On a palfray. Slender. longe and lene
With Rusty byrdell. made not for the Sale
My man toforne. with a boyde male
That of fortune. toke myne ynnue anoony
wher the pylgrimes. were logged everychon

a iii

Atte the ta
bard in sou
thwerke

The Host

The discret
ynge of þ
monke &c.

Prologus

The wor-
dis of þe ost
to þe monke

The same tyme. her gouernour the Dost
Stondynge in halle. full of wynde and boost
Lyche to a may. wounder sterne and fers
Whiche spake to me. and sayd anone day pers
Day domynnyk. day Godfray or Clement
Ye be welcome. newly in to kent
Though your byrdell. haue nother boos ne bell
Belechynge you. that ye wyll tell
fyrste of youre name. and what coultre
withoute more. shortly that ye be
That loke so pale. all deuoyde of blode
Vpon youre hede. a wonder thredbare hode
well arraped. for to ryde late

Lydgate
monke of
Burpe

I answerde my name. was Lydgate
Monke of Burpe. nye fyfty yere of age
Come to this towne. to do my pylgrymage
As I haue byght. I haue there of noo shame
Day Johan qd he. well brouke ye your name
Though ye be sooll. byth right glad and lyght
Prayenig you to suppe. with vs this nyght
And ye shall haue made. at your deuys
A grete poddynge. or a rounde hagys
A fraunche moyse. a tansle or a froyle
To ben a monke. sclender is your coyle
ye haue ben lyke. I dare myne hede assure
Or lette fede. in a faynt pasture
Lyste vp your hede. be glad take noo sorowe
And ye shold home ryde. with vs to morowe

The wor-
dis of þe ost

Pars prima

Here beynne the Story of the des-
truccyon of the Cyte of Thebes



Its quod J. syth of your curtesye
I entered am. in to your cōpanye
And admytted. a tale for to telle
By hym that hath . power to
compelle
I mene oure M^t.gouvernour &
Of you echone rydyng. here belyde (guyde
Though that my wytt. bareyn be & dulle
I wyll reherse. a story wouderfulle
Towchynge the Syege of destruccyon
Of worthy Thebes. the myghty royall toug
Bylte and begonne. of olde antyquyte
Upon the tyme. of worthy Josue
By dylgence. of kynge Amphyon
Theef cause fyrste. of his foundacyon
for whiche his fame. whiche neuer shall awaye
In honour floureth. yet vnto this daye
And in story remembred. is and preyled
But how the walles. were on heyght reyled
It is wonder. and meruayle for to here
But yf ye lyst. I shall you plachly lere
The maner hole plachly in sentence
Vnder supporte. of your pacyence
As wryte myn auctor. & Bochas bothe two
Rede her bookes. and ye shall fynde it so

Pars

Eueryche conclude. lyche as his fantasye
 And thus full ofte. gendred is enuye
 In folkes hertes. of soleynce and pryde
 For suche as lyst not. ones to loke asyde
 To rewarde hem. whan they lowe loue
 And agayne kynde. it is oute of doute

How þpou
 re peple su
 pportē & be
 ren vp þ sta
 te of a kēg

That ony hede. by recorde of the wyse
 Sholde the fore of dysdayne despyle
 Whiche bereth hyr vp. who soo can take hede
 And susteyneth. in his moost nede
 As his pyler. and his suppoayle
 For fynally. ne were the porayle
 Her berer vp. and supportacyon
 Fare well lordshyp. and denomynacyon
 Thorough oute the londe. of euery hygh estate
 Wherfore me semeth. more is fortunate
 Of Marcurye. the swete sugred harpe
 Than Mars swerde. whettyd bene and sharpe
 More accepted. with aspectes good
 Than is this god. with his lokes wood
 For humble speche. with glad contenaunce
 Maye a prynce. shortly auaiſce
 Among his people. hertes for to wyne
 Of Inwarde loue. whiche wyl not twyne
 Than golde. rycheſſe. pryde. or tyrannye
 Othyr dysdayne. daungere or surquedye
 Or of lordes. clerkes can reporte
 But that loue. her crowne doo supporte

Nota
 What the
 goodlihedde
 of a prynce
 auaiſeth to
 wyne þ her
 tis of his pe
 ple

Prima

The fyne is not. in conclusyon
I take recorde. of kyng Amphyon
That bylte Thebes. by his eloquence
More than of pryde. or of violence
Noble and ryche. that lyke was nowhere none
And thus the walles. made of lyne and stone
were reysed fyrste. by syngynges of this kyng
Lyke as poetes feynen. in her wrytyng
But sothly yet. some expolytours
Groundyng hem. vpon olde auctours
Sayen that Cadmus. the famous olde may
full longe afore. the Cytee fyrste began
And the grounde. of byldyng sette
And the bondes. by compas oute mette
With chong oute herue of a bolys syde
whiche enuyron. stretche myght wyde
To gette in londe. a full large space
where vpon to bylde. a dwellyng place
And called was. the soyle thus gotten yv
whylom Boece. of the bolys skyn
The name after. in to Thebes tourned
But Cadmus. hath not there longe sojourned
Lyke in story. as it is compyled
for shortly. he fro thennes was exyled
Neuer after. for to dwell in the towyn
By the knyghthode. of this Amphyon
whiche vp perfourmeth. ryche for the nones
The Cytee Thebes. of myghty square stones

Ensample
of kyng as
phyon

How after
thopynyon
of som auc
tours Cad
m^r bylded
fyrst y cyte
of Thebes

How the co
tre of boece
toke fyrste
his name
of a bolys
kyng & after
callid The
bes

How kyng
cadm^r was
exyled oute
of Thebes

Pars

by the pwe
re of kyng
Amphyon

As I you tolde. a lyte here to forne
And Cadmus thus. his kyngdom hath lome
Sceptre and crowne. and his power royall
Now haue I tolde. vnto you grounde of all
That ye well knowe. by Informacyon
Clere the pyth. and therposycyon
Of this mater. as clerkes can you tell
It were but vayne. longer for to dwell
To tarye you on this mater
Syth my tale. whiche that ye shall here
Vpon oure waye. wyll laste a longe whyle
The space is sothe. as I suppose of an myle
And now ye knowe. fyrste how Amphyon
Bulte and began this Lyte and this towne
Regnyng there. longe after as I rede

How the ly
ne of apby
on by ducer
was couey
ed vnto ky
ge Layus

Of hym nomore. for I wyll procede
To my purpos. that I fyrste began
Not tellyng here. how the lyne ran
fro kyng to kyng. by successyon
Comueyng down. by the stoke of Amphyon
Ceryously by lyne. all the dyscende
But leue all this. playnly of entente
To telle forth. in booke as I rede
How Layus. by processe gay succede
To bere the crowne. in this myghty lande

kyng Layus
& Jocasta
his wyfe

Holdyng the scepture. of Thebes in his honde
Manly and wyse. duryng all his lyte
And Jocasta. called was his wyfe

Pitina

full womanly. the story sayth certeyn
for a tyme. though she were barren
Will layne. in full humble wyle
To haue a childe. by de sarrefyce
fyrste to Appollo. in his chare soo bryghte
And Iubeter. that hath soo grete a myghte
Beseechyng heu. with deuoute reuerence
To graunte oonly. through her influence
That his request. executed maye be
And specially. to goddesses thre
he beloughte. Pallas and Juno
And Dyane. for to helpe also
That he be not defrauded. of his boone
And his prayer accepted. was full soone
That fynally. though his rytes olde
Euen lyke. as his herte wolde
The quene Iocasta. hath anone conceived
whiche whan the kynge. fully hath perceyued
he made in haste. hym lyke not to abyde
Though his kyngdome. messengers ryde
fro coast to coast. the story can deuyse
for dyupners. and philosophers wyle
for suche as werne. famous phylsophens
And well experie. Astronomens
To come in haste. vnto his presence
To fynde oute. shortly in sentence
By crafte oonly. of calculacyon
The chilles fate. and dysposycyon

How the as
tronomys

the phylo
sophers of
thebes cal
led out the
fayre of edip
pus

And then upon. to geue a Iugement
The rote I take. after ascendent
Tremly sought out. by minute and degree
The selfe houre. of his natyuitie
Not far yet. the heuently mansions
Clerely serched. by smale fraccyons
Fyrste by secondes. ceers. and eke quartes
On angrym stones. and on whyte cartes
I preued out. by dyligente labour
In tables correcte. deuoyde of all erreure
Justly sought. and founde oute of bothe two
The peres collecte. and expanse also
Conlydred eke. by good inspeccyon
Euery houre. and constellacyon
And eke asprate. and loke eke dyuers
Whiche were good. and which also peruers
Where they were towarde. or at debate
Happy welfull. or infortunate
And fynally. in conclusyon

Nota
the cursed
constellacyon
& indisposi
cion of heue
in h natyuitie
of edippus

They founde Saturne. in the Scorpyon
Heuy chered. malencolyke and lothe
And wood Mars feryous and wrothe
Holdynge his septrure. in the Capricorne
The same houre. whan this childe was borne
Venus dyrrate. and contraryous
And depresseid in Marcurys hous
That the dome. and Iugement fynall
Of thees clerkes. so speke in specyall

Nota
how the face
of edippus

Prima

By fatall sorte. that may not be withdrawe
That with his swerde. his fader shall be slawe
There maye no man. helpe it nor excuse
On whiche thyng. the kyng gave sore muse
And caste he wolde. on that other syde
Agayne her dome. for hymselfe prouyde
Shape awaye. and remedye tofore
Byddynge the queene. whan the childe were born
Withoute mercy. or moderly pyte
That he be dede. it maye none other be
And in all haste. lyke as he hath sente
She obeyed. his commaundemente
With wofull herte. and pyteous loke
And face pale. her yonge sone she toke
Tendre and grene. bothe of flesshe and bones
To certayne men. ordeyned for the nones
fro poynte to poynte. in all maner thyng
To execute. the byddynge of the kyng
They durste not. delaye it nor abyde
But to a foreste. that stode ferre besyde
They toke her waye. and fast gay hem sped
The kynges wyl. to perfourme in dede
hauninge therof. passynge heuynesse
But whan that. they behelde the fayrenesse
Of the childe. and excellent beaute
In her herte. they hadde grete pyte
And playnly caste. amonge hem was no stryfe
That the childe. sholde haue his lyfe

dysposed &
he shold sle
his owne
fader

Pars

And anon. full hyghe vpon a tree
 So a place. that noo man myght see
 They henge hym vp. the story can reherse
 But fyrste his feet. though they gay to perle
 And on bowes tender. tough and smale
 They knette hym vp. this noo tale
 Hym to preserue. fro bestes wyld and rage
 And after that. taken her wyage
 Towarde Thebes. in all the haste they maye
 But of fortune. thylken same daye
 With her boundes. serchyng vp and downe
 The hunters wente. of kynge polybon
 Through the foreste. game for to fynde
 Some afoore. and some come behynde
 And gay serche. and seke wonder sore
 Amonge the hylles. and the holtes bore
 And as the reenge. the trenches by and by
 They harde a noyle. and a pyteous cry
 Of this childe. hangyng on this tree
 And all attones. drowe it for to see
 And leste not. tyll they haue hym founde
 And toke hym downe. and his feet vnbounde
 And bare hym home. vnto polybon
 Lynge of Archadye. the famous regyon
 And whay that he. fyrste the chyld gay see
 Of his woundes. he hadde grete pytee
 To beholde. his tender feet blede
 And called hym. Edyppus as I rede

how the hū
 ters of kyn
 ge polybon
 fonde schil
 de in þ fore
 te & present
 hym vnto
 the kynge

Prima

whiche is to seyn. plachy this noo phage
Boied the fete. as in that langage
And fyrste the hyngre. in his royall halle
Made his men. a nouryce for to calle
This yonge childe. to fuster and to kepe
with her mylke. that he nought wepe
And his leches. he charged eke also
Tyll he were hoole. her deuoure for to do
fully in purpose. for the childe was fayre
After his daye. to make hym his heyre
for cause only. who soo taketh hede
Sone hadde he none. by lyne to succede
And where that he hadde. a wyfe or none
I fynde not. and therfore let it gone
But by processe. of dayes and of yeres
This Edyppus. amonge his playng feres
was in his porte. passyng full of pryde
That none. with hym myghte in peas abyde
I herte he. was soo inly surquidous
Malencolyke. and contraryous
full of despyte. and hygh dysdayne
That no wyghte durst. shortly hym with sayne
Tyll on a daye. he gav with one debate
To whome he hadde. specially grete hate
whiche of rancoure. and of hasty tene
As he that myghte. his pryde not sustene
Gav vpon hym. cruelly abyayde.
And vnto hym. felly thus he sayde

1990

Sigstis

And make hym sure. of this thyng anon
 If he were his verray sone or none
 And polydore. only of gentylnesse
 whan he behelde. the grete heuynesse
 Of Edyppus. and the wofull payne
 he gay dysmule. and in maner sayne
 Lyke as he hadde be. verrily his heyre
 But more and more. he falleth in dyspayre
 And downe on knees. eke ayeu gay falle
 hym coniuryng. by the goddes alle
 To telle trouthe. and noo thyng to hyde
 Affermynge eke he wolde not abyde
 Lenger with hym. but ryden and enquire
 Tyll tyme he mape. the verray sothe here
 In ony parte. of happye or of fortune
 And for that he. was soo importune
 In his desyre. the kyng withoute abode
 Certously. tolde how it stode
 In a foreste fyrste. how he was founde
 Upon a tree. by the feet I bounde
 And how he caste. in conclusyon
 To make hym kyng. of that regyon
 After his daye. shortly for to telle
 But Edyppus. wyl noo lenger dwelle
 But so he leue. and in haste gay ryde
 To a temple. faste there besyde
 Of appollo. in story as it is tolde
 whoos statu. stode in a chare of golde

On wheels foure. burned bryghte and shene
 And within. a spyryte full vniene
 By fraude only. and false collusyon
 And answere gafe. to every questyon
 Bryngynge the people. in full grete erroure
 Suche as to hym. dyden falle honoure
 By ryghtes vied. in the olde dawes
 After custome. of paganymes lawes
 And Edyppus. with full humble chere
 To Appollo. made his prayere
 Selechynge hym. on his knees bowe
 By some lygne. that he myghte knowe
 Thorough euydence. shortly comprehendeth
 Of what kynrede. he was descendeth
 And whan Edyppus. by grete deuocyon
 fynysshed hache. fully his oryson
 He founde anone. wymmer Inuysyble
 with a voyle. dredfull and horryble
 Bade hym in haste. take his vyage
 Towarde Thebes. wherof his lynage
 he heren shall. and be certefed
 And on his waye. anone he hache hym byed
 By hasty Journaye. & so his horse constreyned
 Daye by daye. tyll he hache atteyned
 vnto a castell. pylotes I called
 Ryche and stronge. and well aboute walled
 Adiacente. by syght of the countree
 And perteynente. to Thebes the cytee

Lynge Lays. beyng the presence
 for to holde. a manere cornement
 with his knyghtes. yonge and curyous
 And other folke. that were desyrous
 To prync hemselfe. shortly for to telle
 who by force. other myghte excele
 Or gette a name. though his hye prowesse
 Eche of hem. dyde his besynesse
 On horse backe. and also eke on foot
 All be that some founde all vnfore
 Rather applye. of werre than of pees
 where Edyppus. putte hymselfe in pees
 As he that was ay redy to debate
 Enforlynge hym. to entrey in atte gate
 Maugre all tho. that hym wolde lette
 And in the pees. of auenture how he mette
 Lynge Lays. and cruelly hym slowe
 Though the story. wrytte not the maner howe
 Ne noo wyghte. can of all the companye
 By noo sygne. verely espye
 By whos hande. that the kynge was slawe
 for Edyppus in haste gan. hym withdrawe
 And hepte hym coye. of entencyon
 Grete was the noyse. and the pyteous soun
 In the castell. for slaughter of the kynge
 Dool and complaynte. sorow and wepyng
 But for they see. heynesse and thoughte
 Agaynste dethe. dayleth lytell or noughte

How edyppus
 slough
 his fauour
 at
 a castell

Pars

They ordeyne. with Rites full royall
 For the feste. called funerall
 And lyke the custome. of the dayes olde
 The cors they brennt. in to ashes colde
 And in a vessel. rounde made as a balle
 They closed hem. in golde and in metalle
 And after that dyde hys hely cure
 In Thebes. to make a sepulture
 And ryche. hem lyfte noo lenger lette
 The ashes dyde they. enclose and sette
 Of this mater. there is noo more to seyne
 But to Edyppus. I wyll tourne apene
 Whiche hym enbasseth ay fro daye to daye
 Towarde Thebes. in all that euer he maye
 Brennyng in herte. hote as ony fyre
 The fyne to knowe. of his fatall desyre
 But for that he fayled. of a gurdy
 Dute of his waye. he wente fer besyde
 Thorough a wyld. and a waste countree
 By a montayne that stode vpon the see
 Where that monstres. of many dyuerse kynde
 Were conuersante. in story as I fynde
 Amonge whiche. sothly there was one
 Soo Inly cruell. that noo man durste gone
 For drede of dethe. forthe by that passage
 This monstre. was soo mortall in his rage
 Whiche hadde also. by descrypcyon
 Body and feet. of a fers lyon

How edyppus
 p^r went by
 þ hylle & he
 re þ mostre
 lay þ called
 was spyn

The desc
 ryp of þ fou
 le monstre

Prima

And lyke a mayde. in sothe was hede and face
fell of his his lobe. and cruell to manace
And odious. of contenaunce and of syghte
And as I rede. Spynn this monstre hyghte
worse than Tyger. Dragon or Serpente
And I suppose. by enchauntemente
he was ordeyned. on the hylle to abyde
To slewe all tho. that passeden helpe
And specially. all that dyde fayle
To expowne. his mystr dyuynaple
his problemes the. in wordes playne and bare
without a myste. openly declare
Or with the lyfe. he myghte not escape
This is betray sothe. platly and noo Jape
And yf that he. by declaracyon
Gaaf there vpon. clere expolycyon
he sholde in haste. there was none other meane
Slee this monstre. for all his cruell teane
There may of mercy. be none other graunte
But for all this. Edyppus ignoraunte
This dredfull hylle. standynge on a Roche
Or he was ware. full nye gay apioche
More perious platly. then he wende
And sodenly the monstre gay descende
To stoppen his waye. and letten his passage
Thus abraydynge. with a fell corage
I haue in herte. Jnly grete dysporte
That fortune hath broughte the. to my sorte

Of the pro
bleme that
Ippur putt
to edyppus

To make a preste. yf thou mayste endure
The satall ende of this auenture
Sette atte a syne. sothely by dayes olde
And by and by. all the caas hym tolde
Chargynge hym. to be well ware and wyse
Gette the palme. and bere awaye the pryse
Thouchynge this thyng. let atwene vs twaye
With lyfe or deth. whiche we shall dareyn
And this monstre. with a despytous chere
His probleme. gan thus. as ye shall here
There is a best. mercurylous to see
The whiche is sothe. atte his natyuytee
Is of his myghte. soo tender and soo grene
That he maye not. hymselfe sustene
Vpon his fete. though he hadde it sworne
But yf that he be. of his moder borne
And afterwarde. by processe of age
On foure fete. he maketh his passage
After one. thre. yf I shall not fayne
And alderlaste. he gooth vprisghte on wayne
Dyuerse of porte. and wonderfull of cheres
Tyll by lengthe. of many sondry yeres
Naturally. he gooth aye on thre
And syth on foure. it may none other bee
And fynally. this is the trouch playne
He retorneth. kyndely agayne
To the mater. whiche that he came fro
Too here is. all my probleme doo

Prima

Muse here vpon. withouten werte or fryte
It to declare. or elles lese thy lyfe
And whan Edyppus. gay this thyng aduerte
well assured. in his manly herte
Gay in his wytt. serchev vp and downe
And of prudence. sake in his reasone
By grete auple. what this thyng maye be
Seenge also. that he maye not fle
And how there was. counseyll none nor rede
But telle trouth. or elles to be dede
And by full goodde. delyberacyon
Thus he answered. in conclusyon
Thou Sprynge quod he. fals and fraudulent
Thou foule monstre. thou dragon þ serpent
That in this hylle. lyche as I conceyue
Ivete in a whayte. folkes to deceyue
But truste well. for all thy slepyghty wytte
Thy falle fraude. shall anone by quyte
Me lyke not now. whysper nether rowne
But thy problemne. anone I shall expowne
Soo openly. thou shalte not goo ther fro
Loo thus it is. take good hede ther to
Thylke beste. thou spake of her before
Is every man. in this worlde borne
Whiche maye not goo. his lytymes be soo softe
But as his moder. bereyth hym a losse
In her armes. whan he dooth crye or wepe
And after that. he gynneth for to crepe

How edyppus
expow
ned þ pble
me þ spryn
guc to hym

On foure fete. in his tender yowthe
 By experyence. as it is ofte couthe
 A fowme I rehened. his handes bothe two
 And by procelle. thou mayste consyder also
 With his twoo fete. for all thy felle tene
 He hath a staff. hymselfe to sustene
 And thax he gooth. shortly vpon thre
 And alderlaste. as it muste nedes be
 Dordynge his staff. he walketh vpon tweyne
 Tyll it soo be. thonogh age he atteyne
 That luste of yowthe. wasted be and spente
 Thax in his honde. he taketh a potente
 And on thre fete. thus he gooth agayne
 And. I dare afferme. y mayst it not withlayne
 And soone after. thorough his vnwelow myghe
 By influence. of natures ryght
 By experyence. as euery may maye knowe
 Lyche a childe. on foure. he ctepeth alowe
 And for he maye. here noo whyle sojourne
 To erthe agayne. he muste in haste retourne
 whiche he come fro. he maye it not renue
 for in this worlde. noman maye eschewe
 This verrape sothe. shortly and noo doughte
 whax the whele of kynde. comyth aboughte
 And naturelly. hath his cours ronne
 By cyrcuyte. as dooth the shene sonne
 That may and childe. of hye and lowe estate
 It gayneth not. to make more debate

Prima

His tyme sette. that he muste fyne
Whan Antropos. of malice dooth unkyne
His lyues thred. by Cloto fyrste composed
Loo here thy probleme. fully is expownd
Atte oure metyng. as I take on honde
To the lawe. that thou muste nedes stonde
And in all haste. of myne bondes deye
But of reason. thou can it ought with seye
And loo this spyn. a wayd and amare
Stode dysamaped. and dysconsolate
With chere done caste. myre pale and dede
And Eorppus. anone smote of the hede
Of this fende. synkynge and vnswete
And the countree. sette holy in quyet
Wherby he hath. suche a pryle I wonne
That his fame. is every coste pronne **Slawe**
Thorough all the londe. þ he the monstre hath
And lyne righte. to Thebes he gay drawe
Well receyued. for his worthynesse
For his manhode. and his righte prouesse
And for they see. he was a semely knyght
Well faugured. in every mannys syght
And sawe also. Thebes the myghty towne
Not oonly they. but all the regyons
Werne destitute. of a gouernoure
Avens her foot. haupnge noo socoure
Hem to defende. but the quene allone
Amonge herself. maynge full grette mone

for there was none as busshes speyde
 The Septene as crown. for to occupy
 for which the lordes all by one assente
 withyn the tyme sette a parlyament
 Shortly concludynge. yf it myghte bene
 pudently to treat. with the queene
 Namely they that helde hemselfe moost sage
 To condyscende by waye of maryage
 She to be Joynd. to this manly knyght
 Passynge pudent. and famous che of myght
 Moost lykely may. as they can dyscerne
 The worthy Lye. to lere and gouerne
 And though counceyll. of the lordes alle
 To her desyre. playnly she is falle
 And corder. without more sayeng
 That of Thebes. Edyppus shall be kyng
 By full assente. was none that sayd naye
 And tyme sette. agayne a certayne daye
 Amonge hemselfe. and fynaly dreyed
 The weddyng was in Thebes sollemnysed
 full ryally. with nedes moost uncheyne
 Only for he is. moder toke the wyne
 On sayd as bothe. he was of her blode
 And Jgnoraunce. shortly how it stode
 That he tofore. hadde his fader slawe
 for which this weddyng. was agayn the lawe
 And tofore god. is nother sayre ne good
 Nor acceptable. blood to touche blood

Prima

Whiche can be. of grette confusyon
In many londe. and many Regrou
Grounde and rote. of unhap and melchaunce
The fyne concludynge. alwaye in vengaunce
As men haue seyn. by clere experyence
And holy wyte. recorder to sentence
How herodes. falsly in his lyfe
Byolence. toke his brothers wyfe
for she was fayre. and pleasaunte to his sygh
And kepte her styll. by force though his myght
All be to her. tytle hadde he noon
And for her sake. the holy may laynt Johon
for his trouthe. to pryson losse his hede
Therefore I rede. every may take hede
where soo he be. prynce lorde or kyng
That he be ware. to eschewe suche weddyng
Or that the swerde. of vengaunce of manace
Lesse he lese happe. fortune and grace
Takynge ensample. in all maner thyng
Of Eoyppus. in Thebes crowned kyng
All be that he wroughte of ignorauce
full derke and blynde. of his wofull chaunce
And yf vnwyte. he of Innocence
As ye haue herde. fyll in suche offence
for whiche he was punysshed and brought low
what ar they worthy that her errour know
And fro the knotte. lyfte not to abstene
Of suche sponsayle. to god and may vnclene

Pars

I can not see. nomore therof deuyse
 Demeth youre selfe. that prudente ben & wyse
 And Eodppus. haue amonge in mynde
 Of whom the weddyng. lyke as ye may fynde
 Unhappy was. and passyng odious
 Infortuned. and vnglacypous
 I am wery. and therof more to wyte
 The hatfull processe. also to endyte
 I passe ouer. fully of entente
 For Iuynens. was not there presente
 Nor Lucyna. lyke not cherto shyne
 Ne there was none. of the mulys nyne
 Of oure accorde. for to make melodye
 For they songe not. by heuenly Armonye
 Noether Tlyo. nor Calyope
 One of the lustren. in nombre thryes thre
 And they dyde. whan Phylogye
 Ascended vp hye. aboue the skye
 To be wedded. this lady vertuous
 Vnto her lord. the god Marcurys
 As Marcyan I named. de Capelle
 In his booke of weddyng. can you telle
 There concludynge. in this maryage
 The poete. that whylom was soo sage
 That this lady. called Sapyence
 I wedded was. vnto Eloquence
 As it sat well. by heuenly purueaunce
 Hem to be Joyned. by knotte of alyauce

Prima

But bothe twoo. sochly of entente
 Atte weddynge. in Thebes were assente
 That caused after. grete aduersyte
 for fynall ende. of that solemnyte
 was sorowe. and woo and destruccyon
 Vter rupne. of this royall tong
 There may noo man. helpe it ne socoure
 for a tyme in Joye. though they floure
 But atte weddynge. platly for to telle
 was Cerberus cheef porter of helle
 And herebus. fader to hatrede
 was there presente. with his hole kynrede
 His wyfe also. with her browes blake
 And her doughter. sorowe for to make
 hydous chered. and vggely for to see
 Megera. and Thesiphonee
 Allecto eke. with laboure and enuye
 Drede and fraude. and false Trecherye
 Trelon Pouerte. Indygence and Nede
 And cruell Dethe. in his rente wede
 wretchednesse. complaynte and eke rage
 ferfull pale. derkenes croked age
 Cruell Mars. as ony tygre wood
 Brennyng pre. of vnkynde blood
 fraternall hate. depe sette the rote
 Saaf oonly dethe. that there nas noo bote
 Assured othes. atte tyme vntrewe
 Alle these folke. were atte this weddynge newe

The infor
 tunas folke
 þ were atte
 edipp⁹ wed
 dyng. Cer⁹
 ber⁹ herebz
 Nope with
 her iii dous
 ghters dres
 de fraude
 Trecherye
 trelon pou
 te Indygen
 ce nede des
 the & cruell
 Mars

Alchile vn
 chrysty peo

Pars

ple were at
p wedding
of Eoypp^s
& Jocasta

To make the towne. desolate and bare
As the story. after shall declare
But ay in Thebes. with his walles stronge
Eoyppus regnyth. many daye and longe
And as myne auctoure wryte. in wordes playne
By Jocasta. he hadde sones twayne
Ethyocles. and also Polymyte
And in bookys. as soundry clerkes wryte
Doughters twoo. full goodly on to see
Of the whiche. one hyghte Antygonee
And that other. called was J meyne
Of hir beaute. inly souereyne
Eoyppus ay deuoyde. of werre and stryfe
with Jocasta. ladde a mery lyfe
Tyll fortune. or his iniquyte
Hadde enuye. of his prosperyte
For whan he shone. moost riche in his renoune
fro her whele. she plunged hym adoune
Oute of his Joye. in to sondayne woo
As she is wonte. frowardly to doo
And namely hem. that letten her affyaunce
On erthly truste. in her varyaunce
For whan this kynge. passyng of grete myghte
Sate with the quene. vpon a certeyne nyghte
Casuelly whan his folke echone
Oute of his chambze. sodenly were gone
Or he was ware. Jocasta gay beholde
The caretes of his woundes olde

Prima

Upon his feet. enpianted woundes depe
Tournynge her face. brast oute for to wepe
So secretly. he myghte it not aspye
And she anone. felle in to a fyncalpe
By on this thyng. musynge more and more
And to her bedde. gav to sygh sore
And whan the kynge. conceived her dysstresse
He gav enquire. of her heynesse
Fully the cause. and occasyon
for he wolde wyte. in conclusyon
what her eyleth. and why she ferde so
My lord quod she. withoute wordes moo
Parcelle cause. of this sodeyne rage
As for I in my tender age
Hadde a lorde. I named Layus
Kynge of this towne. a may right vertuous
By whome I hadde a sone. wonder fayre
Likely to haue ben his. successour and heyre
But by cause. his dysynours tolde
Atte his byrthe. sochly that he sholde
Of he haue lyfe. by fatall destenye
Slee his fader. it myghte none other be
for whiche the kynge. his face to eschue
Badde me in haste. as hym thoughte due
To slee the childe. and haue therof noo roushe
And I anone badde. withoute slouche
To certayne men. vpon payne of Jugemente
To execute. the commaundemente

Para

Of the kynge.as I gaaf hym to charge
And forthe they gone.to a foreste large
Adiacente to this countree
Percey they his fret.and hangynge on a tree
Not perfourmyng.the executyon
Ov hym they.hadde suche compassyon
Lette hym there.and home resorte agayne
Beyng in doubt.and to none certayne
Atte her repayre.as they tolde alle
Of this childe.what afterwarde is befall
Saaf they sayde.hunters haue hym founde
Whiche lad hym forthe.and his feet vnbounde
But to what coste.they coude not declare
Whiche percell is of.myne euell fare
Grounde and cause.of myne heuy chere
Consydered eke.the woundes that appere
Vpon youre feet.and wote not what they mene
And one thyng is.ay atte myne herte grene
My lord alas.but of newe date
Lynge Lopus.slayne was but late
Atte a castell.nye by this countree
Vpon youre comynge.in to this Lytee
Alle this I wayed.and rekened in to one
Makyng myne herte.heuy as ony stone
Soo that I can counseyle.none ne rede
And with þ worde.the kynge lyfte vp his hede
And abarayed.with sharpe syghes smerte
And all this thyng.by ordre gay aduerse

Prima

Leypouly. by good aduysemente
And by sygnes. clere and eydence
Conceyueh well. and soze gay repente
It was hymselfe. that Jocasta mente
And whan þ quene. in maner sawe hym playne
By her goddes. she gay hym to constrayne
To shewen oute. the cause of his affraye
And it expowne. and make noo delaye
Croppe and rote. shortly why that he
Entred fyrste. in to that countre
fro wher he came. and fro what regyon
But he her putte in delusyon
As he hadde done it. for the nones
Tyll atte laste. he brake oute attones
Vnto the quene. and gay a processe make
fyrste how he was. in the foreste take
wounded the feet. and soo forthe euery thyng
Of his serchynge. how Polybon the kyng
And hole the cause. why he hym forsoke
And in what wyle. he the waye toke
Towarde Thebes. as Appollo hadde
And of fortune. how he was ladde
where that Spynx. kepte the mountayne
And how that he slowe also in certayne
Lynge Layus atte castell gate
Towardes nyghte. whan it was full late
And to Thebes. than he gay hym spede
To fynde oute. the stok of his kynrede

Pars

Tragedia
senecede &
dyppo rege
thebar

whiche vnto hym. gay were conche
for by procelle. of his grene yowthe
he founde oute well. by rekenyng of his lyfe
That she was bothe. his moder and his wyfe
Soo that all nyght. and luyng on the morowe
Afte twene hem twoo. gay a newe sorowe
whiche vnto me. were tedpous to telle
for therupon. yf I sholde dwelle
A longe space. it wolde occupye
But ye maye reden. in a Tragedye
Of morall Senech. and fully his endynge
His dooll. his myscheef and his compleynynge.
How with sorowe. and vnweldy age
This Edyppus. fylle in to dotage
Loste his wytte. and his worldely delyte
And how his sones. hadde hym in dyspyte
And of dyldayne. toke of hym noo hepe
And bookes layen. his cyeu oute he wepte
And as myne auctour. lyketh to deuyse
As his sones. rebuke hym and despyte
Vpon a daye. in a certayne place
Dute of his hede. his eyen he gay oute race
And caste at hem. he gay none other bote
And of malyce. they fradde hem vnder fote
fully deuoyde. bothe of loue and drede
And whan Edyppus. for myscheef was th^o dede
withinne a pytte. made in the erthe lowe
Of cruelte. his sones haue hym throwe

Prima

werre thay serpente. or ony tygre wood
Of curled stok. cometh vnkynde blood
As in story. ye maye rede here to forne
All by the Rose. growe ouce of a thorne
Thus of Eddyppus. whan he was blynd & olde
The wretched ende. I haue you playnly tolde
for whiche shortly. to man and childe I rede
To be well ware. and take hede
Of kyndly righte. and consyence
To doo honoure. and due Reuerence
To fader and moder. of what estate they be
Or certaynly ellis. they sholde neuer thec
for whoo that is. not to hem debonayre
In speche in porte. for to treate hem fayre
hem to obeye. in honeste and drede
And to cheryshe. of what they hadde nede
I dare asserme. exceptyng none estate
That he shall fyrste. be infortunate
In all his werke. bothe in see and londe
And of what thyng. he taketh on honde
fortune frowarde. and to hym contrayre
waste of his good. playnly and appayre
fynde plente. of contek warre and stryfe
Unhappy ende. and shortyenes of lyfe
And graceles of. what he hath to do
hatrede of god. and of man also
Therfore noo man. be here of recheles
But make youre myrroure. of Echyocles

Nota
How euery
man ought
of dewte to
do reuerence
to fad & mo
der. or ellis
the wylfull
vengaunce
therof

Pars

And his brother. called Polymyte
Whiche in suche thyng. gretely were to wyte
As ye shall here. of hem how it fylle
And whan we be descended doune this hylle
And I passed here. the lowe vale
I shall begynne. the remenant of my tale

ExPLICIT prima pars
istius Codicilli.

ImmEDIATE sequitur ses-
cunda pars eiusdem.

DAlsyd þe thorp. of boughtron on the blee
By my childer. I gan anone to see
Thruþh þe sonne. þe full clere gay shyne
Of the clok. that it drowe to nyne
And sawe also. the syluer dropes shene
Of the dewe. lyche perles on the grene
Vapoured vp. in to the ayre a losse
Whan zepherus. with his blowyng softe
The weder made lusty. smothe and fayre
And righte attempted. was the hollome ayre
The same houre. all the hole route
Of the pylgrymes. rydyng Rounde aboute
In my tale. whan I gan procede
Reherlyng forthe. as it was in dede

Secunda

whan Edyppus. buryed was and graue
How his sones. the kyngdome for to haue
Amonge hemselfe. by full of mortall hate
for the crowne. gonne to debate
whiche of hem. Justely shall succede
And the septure. of the towne possede
Aduertynge not. nocher to righte ne wronge
But eche of hem. to make her partye stronge
And his quarell. proudly to sustene
from whoos hertes. was deuoyded clene
Of bretherhode. the faythfull alpaunce
false couerple. soo made hem at dystaunce
fully worchynge. in to destruccyon
And ruine of this noble towne
Soo hote biente. the hatred enuye
of bothe twoo. thorough pompous surquedye
That neyther woloe. playnly in a poynte
Ocher forborne. they stode in luche dysloynte
How as they hadde. of byrthe be foieyns
Tyll of the towne. the noble Cytezens
Lynghes barons. with many worthy lorde
Shope awaye. to make hem of accorde
And to sette hem. in guyete and in pes
But for his parte. this Echydres
Alledge gay. that he was fyrste borne
for whiche of reason. he oughte goo to forne
In the cytee. to be crowned kyng
Synce by lawe. there was noo lettynge

The stra
uery of the

from bre
cheren

for vnto hym. longeth the herpage
By descende. and by cytle of age
But Polymyte. of full hys dysdayne
All openly. gaue replye agayne
And for his parte. sayde in speryall
Reason was none. that he sholde haue all
Regalpe. and domynacyon
And the lordshyppe. hole of the countie
And he righte nought. oute of the Cyte
Lyue to cytle. and to pouerte
full concludynge. withoute fere or drede
Rather than it suffre. he wyl be dede
And thus alas. thorough her enuyous stryfe
Atte ende eueryche losse his lyfe
Atte grete myscheef. as ye shall after here
But thys the tyme. the lordes all I fere
full besely dyde. her dyspygence
By grete auyse. of full byghthe prudence
To sette hem in quyet and in rest
Couleplynge hem. playnly for the beste
To leue her stryfe. of wylsome and reason
A condescende. to some conclusyon
whiche to bothe myghte. most anayse
That fynally thorough. her gouernayle
The lordes all. beyng the ptesente
They haue hem broughte. to be of one assente
Of one herte. as brother vnto brother
The counten Eueryche of hem. to regoe after other

Secunda

perre by perre. as it come aboute
Soo that the towne. shall absence hyth oute
fully that perre. and hymselfe guye
By his manhode. and his chyualrye
haunte hymselfe. in dedes marcyall
whyle his brother. in his see royall
holdeth his septure. the Cytee to gouerne
And whan the perre. his cours hath roime yerne
And is come oute. he shall haue reseyre
To regne in Thebes. lyke as lorde and heyre
Therto receyue. fully his dygnyte
whyle that the other. voydeth the Cyte
pacyently takynge. his aduenture
Tyll he agayne. his honoure maye recure
Thus entrechange. euery perre they shall
That one ascendeth. that other hath a fall
They muste obeye. of herte and take it wele
Lyche as the tourne. relorteth of the whele
for this was. hole the compolycyon
By twene the bretheren. and conuencyon
full knytte vp. by grete ayslemente
Therefore the goddes. by othe of sacramente
Neuer after to grutche. ne to varye
But accomplisshen. shortly and not tarpe
Lyche as ye accorde. enrolled in the towne
fro poynte to poynte. made mencyone
But alder fyrste. by reason of his age
Ethyocles. hadde thauantage

cyon of the
twoo bies
therro

The wordes
of the
compolycy
on

Pars

To regne afoorne. to were a crowne
 Polymyte hastynge hym oute of towne
 Durynge that yere. it maye none other bee
 whyle his brother. late in his royall see
 full rychely. vpon fortunes whele
 And rode hym forth. armed bryghte in stele
 This Polymyte. sothly as I rede
 hymselfe allone. on a Royall stede
 withoute guyde. all the longe dape
 Beynge aferde. to kepe the hyghe waye
 In his herte. hauynge suspecyon
 To his brother. of malyce and trefon
 Lest he pursued. thorugh his fals vnkynd blood
 To haue hym dede. for couetyse of good
 That he allone. myghte haue posselpon
 Durynge his lyfe. fully of the towne
 for whiche in haste. hauynge noo felawe
 Polymyte asyde gay hym drawe
 By a foreste. Joyynge to the see
 knowynge right nought. þ spght of the countree
 full of hylles. and of hye mountayns
 Craggy roches. and but few playns
 wounder dredfull. and lothsome of passage
 And therewith all. full of bestes rage
 Holdynge his waye. of herte noo thyng spghte
 Hate and wery. tyll it drowe to nyghte
 And all the dape. beholdynge enuyrone
 he neyther sawe. castell towre ne towne

Secunda

The whiche thyng. greuyd hym full sore
And sodenly. the see began to rore
Wynde and tempeste. hydously to aryse
The reyne doun bete. in full grylly wyle
That may and beste. therof was adradde
And nye for fere. gay to waxe madde
As it semed. by the wofull sowns
And Tygres Beries. Bores and Lyons
whiche for refute. hymselfe for to saue
Eueryche in haste. drowe vnto his caue
But Polymyte. in this tempeste huge
Alas the while. he fyndeth noo refuge
Nor hym to thronde. sawe noo where no socour
Tyll it was passed. almost mydnyghte hour
The cloude voyde. in heuen dyde appere
A large space. that the sterres clere
Soo that this knyghte. oute of a foreste large
Gan approchey. to the londe of Arge
Seenge a paleys myghty of byldyng
Of whiche Adrastus. called was the kyng
A manly man. riche and wounder sage
And conne was. somdele in to age
Some of the yle. that called is Cylon
And whylom lone. of the kyng Chalop
And for his wytte. in story as is couthe
He chosyn was. in his tender youthe
Of all Arge. to be crowned kyng
Chyfe of all grece. by recorde of wyptyng

How Polymyte came
in to þe londe
of Arge.

Argyuedei
phyle & A/
drastus

The dre/
me of adra/
stus of a bo/
re & of a ly/
on

Not by dyscete. ne successyon
But all only. of free electyon
Beholde of Arge. the septure in his hande
As moost worthy. of all Grekes londe
Loued and drad. for wyldome and Justyce
And as the story playnly can deuysse
This worthy kynge. hadde doughtres two
Passynge fayre. and righte good also
It were to longe. her beaute to dyscryue
And the eldeste. called was Argyue
Deiphyle. I named the seconde
And Adrastus. lyche as it is fonde
This worthy kynge. hadde lone none
To succede. after he be gone
For whiche he was durynge. all his lyfe
Tryste in herte. and passynge penyfe
But hole his truste. and his hope stode
By alyaunce. of some worthy blode
Brought in by meane. of his doughters twayn
That he shall be. releffed of his payn
Thonigh recomforte. of some hys maryage
And sothly yet. fall hys to his corage
He troubled was. by occasyon
Of a swene. and a dysyon
Shewed to hym. vpon a certeyne nyghte
For as hym thoughte. in his inward syghte
Whyle he slepte. by clere inspecyon
A wyld boze. and a ferce lyon

Secunda

possede shall. the bestes in her rage
his doughters twoo. by bonde of maryage
In shorte tyme. within a certayne daye
whiche broughte his herte. in full grette affraye
But thyng is southe. that destinye hath shawe
here in this worlde. full harde it is to scape
The merueylous. a man to schue his fate
And Polymyte. of whome I spake late
with the tempeste. bete and all bereyned
By grace only. the cytee hath attayned
where Adrastus. full statly of degree
Thylke tyme. helde his Royall see
The trouble nyghte. myrke and full obscure
Hath broughte this knyght. only by auenture
Through the cytee. enclosed with a wall
vnto the paleys. chylde and pryncypall
where as the kynge. in his chambre alofte
Lay in his bedde. and slepte wounder softe
Eke all his folke. hadde her chambers take
Lyke as fortune. perauunter hadde shawe
The selfe tyme. by cause it was soo late
And casuelly. noo porter atte gate
As it hadde be righte. for the nones
And in a porche. bylde of square stones
full myghely. enarched enuyrowne
where the domes. and the plees of the towne
were execute. and lawes of the kynge
And there this knyght. without more taryenge

Pars

wery and mate. fro his stede a lyghe
 Hangynge the reyn. in all the haste he myghte
 Dpon his arme. surer hym to kepe
 And layde hym doune. and gay anone to slepe
 As hym semed. that tyme for the beste
 And whyle he laye. thus for to reste
 Of auenture. there come a knyghte rydynge
 The worthiest. in the worlde lyuynge
 Curteys lowly. and righte vertuous
 As sayth my auctor. called Tydus
 Eurus in armes. and manly in werkynge
 Of his byrthe. sone vnto the kynge
 Of Calydonye. a londe of grete renoune
 And he alas. oute of that regyowne
 Exyled was. for he his brother slow
 As Seace of Thebes. wyte the maner how
 All be that he to hym. noo malycie mente
 For on a daye. as they on hounyng wente
 In a foreste. for herte and for hynde
 Soo as he stode. vnder a grene lynde
 And casuelly. lette his arrowe slippe
 He slow his brother. called menalyppe
 Through mortall soite. his honde was begyled
 For whiche he was. banysshed and exyled
 As the lawe. narowe lette his charge
 And for this caas. he came fyrste to Arge
 In to the porche. where Polymyte slepe
 Of auenture. or he toke ony kepe

Secunda

The same nyghte. hydously beset
With the tempeste. of thonder wynde and rayn
And fylle also. anoye and grete damage
Thurgh the foreste. holdynge his passage
As polymyte. hadde done befoine
In perrell ofte lphelp. to be lorne
With bestes rage. sette on euery syde
Tyll of grace. withoute ony guyde
He rode thrugh Arge. the grete myghty towne
Strepte to the paleys. and the chefe dougone
Lyche as I tolde. where Polymyte laye
And atte his comynge. made a grete astrape
For he was blynd. thorough derknesse of þ nyght
And hym to guyde. he founde noo lyght
Whay he came in. of pyket ne of torche
Tyll he vnwarly. entred the porche
And wolde haue taken there. his herbygage
But Polymyte. sterte vp in a rage
Sodeynly awaked. as I rede
With the nyghynge. of his proude stede
And fyrste of all. whay that he behelde
A knyghte armyd. vpon his breste a shelde
And gan the maner. of his arape aduerte
Of verraye pre. vpon his horse he sterte
And cruelly. gan tydynge enquire
Whennes he came. or what he dyde there
And badde in haste. his answere to deuyse
And Tydeus. in full humble wyle

Answered agayne. of verray gentylnesse
 And sayde in sothe. that of hygh dystresse
 Of the tempeste. and the derke nyghte
 He dryuen was. lyke an arrante knyghte
 Of nede oonly. and of necessitye
 And hys constreynthe. of his aduersyte
 Take lodgyng. where soo that he myghte
 And in that courte. therfore he a lyghte
 Withoute more. thynkyng none outrage
 Nor to noo wyghte. menyng noo damage
 Than Polymyte. of malysse and hys pryde
 Tolde hym shortly. he sholde not abyde
 Noo lenger there. though he hadde it sworne
 For I quod he. toke it vp beforne
 And wyll it kepe. durynge all this nyghte
 I say the placly. maugre all thy myghte
 Quod Tydeus. that is noo curtesye
 He to deuoyde. but rather bylonye
 If ye take hede. that seme a gentyll knyghte
 And I suppose. ye haue noo tyle of ryghte
 To this lodgyng. by waye of herytage
 More than haue I. for all youre felle rage
 And parde. yet shall it be noo dysse
 Tyll to morow. that doo me ese
 Of gentyllesse. oonly by youre leue
 To suffre me. it shall lpyll greue
 But ay the more. Tydeus spake fayre
 Polymyte. was frowarde and contrayte

Secunda

And shortly sayd. it geyneth not to stryue
That of force. he shall deuoyde blyue
Or vtterly bytwene hem bothe twoo
This chyng to trye. he must haue a doo
And Tydeus seeng noo better mene
full lyke a knyght. in stele armed clene
withoute abode. faste gam hym spede
wounder lyghtly. for to take his stede
And thus. these knyghtes pompous and elate
for lypyll cause. sellen atte debate
And as they ranne togyder on horse bake
Eueryche on other. fyrste her spere brike
And after that. full surquydous of pryde
with sharpe swerdes. they togyder ryde
full proussly. these myghty champpons
In her furre. lyke Tygres or Lyons
As they hurtle. that all the paleys shoke
And kyng Adrastus. oute of slepe woke
And made in haste. his chamberleyns call
And thrugh the courte. his worthy knyghtis all
Commaundyng hem. to descende and se
And reporte what it myght be
This wonder noyse. in his courte be nyght
And whā they sawe. two strange knyghts fyght
So plates bryght. and in thyk mayle
withoute Juge. they hadde grete meruayle
And dyslamayed. of this vncouth chying
As they founde. tolde they to the kyng

How Ty
deus & Pos
lymyte stro
fe for her
lodgyng

And Adrastus. for derkenesse of the nyght
 fro his chambre. with many torches lyght
 In to the courte. is descended downe
 All his mayne. stondynge enuprowne
 Of these knyghtes. hauyng full grete wounder
 And of manhode. he putte hem fyrst asounder
 Hem commaundyng. lyke a gentyll kyng
 To leue her stryfe. and cese of her fyghtyng
 And entred in. with a knyghtly loke
 And fyrst from hem. her swerdes both he toke
 Affermynge eke. as to his fantasie
 It was a rage. and a grete folie
 Doo wylfully. her lyues to in parte
 withoute Juge. her quarell to departe
 And specyally. in the derke nyght
 whan neyther of other. myght haue a lyght
 Chargyng hem. on payne of her lyfe
 To desure and synce of of her stryfe
 And Tydeus. in all the haste he myght
 full humbly. fro his stede a lyght
 And right mekely. with chere and contenaunce
 putte hym hole in the gouernaunce
 Of Adrastus. in all maner thyng
 And polmyte. made eke noo taryng
 To a lyght also. and wolde it not withlepe
 The kynges byddyng. lowly to obeie
 Soo as hym ought. with due reuerence
 And as they stode. both in his presence

Secunda

He gad enquire. fyrste of her estate
The cause also. why they where atte debate
Of her countrees lothly. and her age
He asked eke. touchyng her lynage
By dyscete of what. stok they were borne
And Tydens. his answere gaaf toforne
Tolde playnly. made noo lelyng
How that he was. sone to the kyng
Of Calydonye. and rightfull heyre therto
And of theyle. the soth he tolde also
As ye haue herde. in the story radde
And Polymyte. with chere and face sadde
Vnto the kyng. touchyng his countree
Sayde he was borne. in Thebes the Cytee
And Jocasta. the grete famons quene
His moder was. withouten ony wene
But of his fader. whylom kyng and lorde
For verraye shame. he spake not a worde
Only for he. yf I sholde not fayne
His fader was. and brother bothe twayne
The whiche in south. he was full lothe to telle
And eke the kyng. wolde hym not compelle
Of gentyllesse. but badde withoute blame
Of his byrthe. for to haue noo shame
For hole the caas. and maner euery dele
Touchyng his kyn. þ groude he knew full well
Lyche as it was. by full clere reporte
Enforlyng hym. for to doo comforte

with all his myght. and his hely payne
 This manly kyng. to these knyghtes twayne
 And to hem sayd. aforne hym as they stode
 He wylt well. that of worthy blode
 They were descended. touchyng her kynrede
 And made his offycers. in haste to lede
 The strange knyghtes beyng atte debate
 Through his paleys. to chambres of estate
 Eche by hymselfe. for to take his ease
 And euery thyng in louth. þ myght hem please
 Was offred hem. lyche to her estates
 And whan they weren. dysleuered of her plates
 Lullhewes grenes. and her sabatous
 Her harneys boyded. and her habargous
 Twayn mantels. vnto hem were brought
 Fret with perle. and ryche stones wrought
 Of clothe of golde. and veluett cremesyne
 Full rychely furred. with armyne
 To wrappe hem in. agayn the colde morowe
 After the rage. of her nyghtes sorowe
 To take her reste. tyll the sonne arysle
 And thax the kyng. in full prudente wyse
 fyrste of all. was nothyng recheles
 The knyghtes hertes. to letten in pees
 That euer after. I dare aferme it well
 Eche was to other. as trewe as ony stele
 Duryng her lyfe. bothe in werke and dede
 Vnder a knotte. boundey of bretherhede

Secunda

And Adrastus. the worthy kyng famous
A feste made. riche and plenteuous
To these knyghtis. & hymself there at presente
And after mete. full goodly he hath sente
This noble kyng. for his daughters dere
Of gentyllesse. for to make hem chere
To the knyghtes. I come fro soo fer
And lyke is lothe. as Lucyfer the ster
Gladdeth the morow. atte his vpylyng
Soo the ladies. atte her incomyng
With the streames. of her eyen clere
Goodly apporte. and womanly manere
Contenaunce. and excellent fayrenesse
To all the courte. broughten in gladnesse
For the fresshenesse. of her heuenly cheres
Soo agreable was. to the strangers
Atte her entre. that in specyall
Hem thought it lyke. a thyng celestyall
Enhastyng hem. in full knyghtly wyle
Agaynst hem. goodly to aryle
And as they mette. with humble contaunce
Full connyngly. dyde her obseruaunce
Hem conueyng to her spetyng place
But lothly. I haue lesse none ne space
To reherse. and putte in remembraunce
Hole the maner. of her dalyaunce
It were to longe. for you to abyde
But well I wote. that the god Cupyde

By influence. of his myghty honde
 And the seruence. of his frye bronde
 Her metyng fyrste. fortunéd hath soo well
 That his arowe. of golde and not of stele
 I perced haue the. knyghtes herres twayne
 Thruugh the breste. with suche a lusty payne
 That there abode. sharpe as spere or launce
 Depe I fyxed. the poynce of remembraunce
 whiche maye not lyghely. rased bey a waye
 And thus in Joye. they dryuen forch the waye
 In play and reuell. for the knyghtes sake
 And towards nyght. they her chambres toke
 Atte due tyme. as her fader badde
 And on her way. the knyghtes haue hem ladde
 Reuerently. vp by many a steyre
 Takynge leue. gan anone repayre
 To her lodgynge. in a full statly toure
 Assygned to hem. by the herberyoure
 And after spyces. playnly and che wyne
 In cuppes grete. wrought of golde fyne
 withoute taryng. to bedde strepte they gone
 Touchyng her rest. where they slepte or none
 Demeth ye louers. that in suche maner thyng
 By experyence. haue fully knowlechyng
 for it is not. declared in my boke
 But as I fynde. the kyng all nyght woke
 Thought full in herte. the story specysyfe
 Mulyng soze. and full of fantasyes

Secunda

fyfte aduerting. the grette worthynesse
Of these knyghtes. and the semlynesse
Her lusty youthe. her force and her manhode
And how they wery comen. of Royall blode
All this he gay to reuolue aboute
As in his herte. haung a maner doubte
Bytwene twoo. hangyng in a balaunce
whether he sholde make alyaunce
Bytwene his doughters. & the knyghtis twayn
for one thyng. as his herte gay constrayn
The remembraunce of his aunsyon
Of whiche. therfore I made mensyon
Touchyng the lyon. and the wyld boze
It nederth not. to reherse it more
Lastyng alwaye. in his fantasye
what it myght. clerely sygnyfye
This derke dreame. this was hydde and close
But on the morowe. Adrastus vp arose
And to the temple. the right waye he toke
And gay praye deuoutly on his boke
To the goddess. his dreame to specyfye
And they hym badde. homeward to hye
And to beholde. in the knyghtes sheldes
The fell bestes. peynted of the feldes
whiche shall to hym. by clere inspecyon
full playnly. make declaracyon
Of his dreame. that he had in the nyght
And Adrastus. enbasted hym full ryght

In her sheldes. hangynge vpon hokes
 The bestes rage. with her mortall hokes
 And to purpose. lyke as wryte Bochas
 Polymyte. full strypte embraced was
 In the hyde of a fers lyon
 And Tydeus. abouen his haberyon
 Aggypou hadde. yndous sharpe and hore
 wrought of the byttles. of a wylde bore
 The whiche bestes. as the story leres
 were wrought and bete. vpon her baners
 Dylplayed brode. whan they sholde fyght
 wherof the kyng. whan he hadde a fyght
 Acte his repayre. in herte was full gladd
 with a face full demure and sadde
 with his lordes. that he aboute hym hadde
 To the temple. he these knyghtes ladde
 And whan they hadde. with all circumstaunces
 Of rytes olde. done her obseruaunces
 Home to the court. they resorte agayn
 And in a hall. riche and well belayn
 This worthy kyng. of herte lyberall
 Made a feste. solempne and Royall
 whiche in deyntes. suerly dyde excelle
 But it were beyon. every cours to telle
 her strange sewes. and her sotyltees
 Ne how they. sat lyke to her degrees
 for lak of tyme. I lette it overspyde
 And after mete. Adrastus toke aspyde,

Secunda

The knyghtes twoo. and lyke a prudence may
 In secrete wyse. thus his tale he gay

Sirs quod he. I doughte it nought
 That it is frethe. & grene ay in your tho^{ght}
 How that fyrst. by goodis ordynaunce
 And after nexte. thurgh fates purueaunce
 And by workynge. of fortunes honde
 How þe werne. fyrst brought in to this londe
 Bothe tweyne. but now this laste nyghte
 Of was comynge. I am full gladde & lyghte
 fyrst in my selfe. shortly to expresse
 whay I consyder. and see the lyklynesse
 Of youre persones. with the circumstaunces
 And hole the maner. of your gouernaunces
 Seeynge full well. wherto sholde I fayne
 ye lykely be. here after to attayne
 The grete estate. of habondaunce of good
 Thurgh youre byrthe. and your Royall blood
 ye maye not fayle. but ye haue wronge
 for ye are bothe manly. and ryghte stronge
 And for to sette. youre hertes at more reste
 My purpose is. I hope for the beste
 Soo that in you. be noo varyaunce
 To make a knot. and by alpaunce
 A twise you and my daughters two
 yf youre hertes. accordey wyl therto
 And for. I am fully in dyspeyre
 To succede. for to haue ay heyre

Verba Res
 gis Aldra
 tus ad po
 limitem et
 Tydeu

Therefore ye shall haue. possessyon
 Duryng my lyfe. of halfe this regyon
 forth with in honde. and hole after my daye
 There is no man. that therto shall saye naye
 And shortly after. whan I am graue
 Eche of you. shall his parte haue
 Of this kyngdome. as I haue prouyded
 This to see. it shall be deuyded
 Bytwene you twoo. eueryche to be crowned
 youre purpartyes. by equyte compowned
 Soo egally. in euery mannys syghte
 That eche of you. reioyse shall his ryghte
 And by youre wytte. ye shall the londe amende
 And of manhode. knyghtly it defende
 Agayne oure enemyes. and oure mortall fooy
 And for the dayes. passed bey and gooy
 Of my desyres. and my lusty youthe
 I am full sette. for to make couthe
 That ye sholde haue. lyke myne oppynyon
 The gouernaunce of this regyon
 To this entente. me lemyth for the beste
 ye to gouerne. and I to lyue in reste
 fully to fulfyll. the luste of my pleyours
 Hunt and hawke. in woodes and ryuers
 whan soo euer. therto I shall haue pleasance
 And for to haue. none other attendance
 vnto nothyng. but vnto myne ease
 for whiche shortly. yf it agree and please

Secunda

That I haue sayde. to you that ben soo wyse
And ben accordynge. vnto youre auple
Delayeth not. but in wordes playn
What you semyth. yue answere agayn

And whan Adrastus. had his tale fyned
Tydeus with hede. full lowe enclined
As he that was. a verry gentyll knyght
With all his power. and his full myght
Full humbly. thanked the kyng
Touchynge his profre. of soo hygh a thyng
And for his parte. sayd he wolde assente
Fully of herte. neuer to repente
To all that euer. the kyng hath sayde
And polmyte. was also well apayde
In the story. as it is comprehended
And soo they be bothe. condescended
The kynges wyll. to fulfyll in dede
fro poynte to poynte. and therupon procede
where so euer. that they wyne or lese
And Tydeus made. his brother chese
Of gentyllesse. and of curtesye
whiche was moost. to his fantasye
Of the sustrey. for to haue to wyue
And he in south. chosen hadde Argyue
That eldest was. full womanly to se
And Tydeus. toke than Depphyle
Of her beaute. moost souerayn excellent
And Adrastus. thrugh out his londe hath sente

Responsio
a Polimite
et Tideo
ad Regem
Adrastū

For his lordes. and his baronage
 To be presente. at the maryage
 Of the knyghtes. and make noo lettynge
 And they echone. come at the hyddynge
 A goodly wyse. meke and full benygne
 Agayne the daye. that he dyde assigne
 And thyder come. full many lusty knyghte
 Full well beser. and many lady bryghte
 Fro euery coste. and many freshe squyre
 The story it sayth. and many compynere
 To beholde. the grete Royalte
 And the maner. of this solempnyte
 But to telle. all the circumstaunces
 Of Justes. reuell. and of dyuerse daunces
 The festes riche. and the gyftes grete
 The pryue syghes. and the feruente herte
 Of loues folke. brennyng as the glede
 And deuyles. of many sondry wede
 The touches stole. and the amorous lokes
 By sotyll crafte. layde doune lyne and hokes
 The Jelous folke. to trap they and begyle
 In theyr a wayte. with many sondry wyle
 All this in southe. descryuen I ne can
 But well I wote. the newe fame ran
 This meane whyle. with full swyfte passage
 Vnto Thebes. of this maryage
 And by reporte trewe. and not I fayned
 The towne therof. the eres hathe attayned

Secunda

Myne auctour wyte. of Ethyocles
Touchyng the honoure. and the grete entres
Of Polymyte. hyghly magnifyed
And how that he. newly was allyed
With Adrastus. in the londe of Arge
The whiche thyng. greely he gay to charge
Dredyng inly. that this maryage
Shall after tourne. in to his damage
Sore mulyng. and castyng vp and downe
The grete power. and the hye renowne
Of Adrastus. the whiche of Grekes londe
Hadde all the power. subgett to his honde
Leste that he for Polymyte sake
wolde vpon hym. a newe werre make
But yf that he. lyke to the conuencyon
Atte the tyme sette. delyuerd the toung
To his brother. by bonde of bothe I sworne
By couenauntes. assured here byfoine
Yf ye remember. late as I you tolde
whiche he was not. in purpos for to holde
But from his best. called for to barye
And therupon lyfte noo lenger to carye
Lyche his desyre. to shape remedies
And fyrste he sente. for his next allyes
In whome he hadde. moost affyaunce
for his lordes. that hadde gouernaunce
Of his kyngdome. to come to hym anone
And whay they were presente everychone

He sayd playnly. wenping for the beste
 That his herte. shall neuer lye in reste
 But in sorowe. and in a maner drede
 Tyll his brother. bitterly be dede
 That he in Thebes. in his Royall sete
 Myghte allone. regne in quyet
 He mente hymselfe. shortly and none other
 Unperturbed. of polynye his brother
 And atte this counseyll. dyuerse of entente
 I fynde wytte thre folkes were presente
 Some in lothe. that feythfull were and trewe
 And some also. that changen can of newe
 And other eke. that bytwene twayne
 Louerly coude vnder coloure fayne

The com-
 medacyon
 of trouth

The fyrste sayd. aboue all thyng
 Trouth sholde longe to a kyng
 Of his worde. not be varyable
 But playne and hole. as a contre stable
 For trouth fyrste. withoute ony wene
 Is chyfe pylar. that many a kyng sustene
 In Joye and honour. for to lede his lyfe
 For trouth whylom had a prerogatyfe
 As of Eldre. the book can specyfye
 Recorde I take. of prudente Neemye
 That worthy kyng. for all her grete ryde
 With all her power. and domynacyon
 Hauyng rewarde. in comparyson
 The trouthes myght. trouthes worthynesse

Nota

How trou-
 the is pre-
 ferred in þ
 book of es-
 dre aforne
 kyngis wē
 me & wyne

Secunda

for as Esdr. playnly dooth expresse
who taketh hede. in the same place
The influence sothly. and the grace
Of trouth allone. this olde Neemye
Gate hym lycence to redefye
The walles newe. of Iherusalem
whiche trouth is. tresoure. cheef of euery realme
for Salamon wytte. how that thynges twey
Trouth and mercy. lynked in a cheyn
preserue a kyng. lyke to his degree
fro all myscheef. and aduersyte
Alas therfore. that ony doublenesse
darypounce. or vnlykernesse
Chaunge of worde. or mutabyltye
fraude or deceyte. other instabyltye
Sholde in a kyng. haue domynacyon
To causen after. his destruccyon
Of kynges rede the story done by rowe
And seen how many. haue ben ouerthrowe
Through her fallshede. fro fortunes whele
for vnto god. it pleseth neuer a dele
A kyng to be double of entente
for it maye happe. that the worlde is blente
full ofte lyth by slepyth of her werkyng
But this is the trouth. god seeth euery thyng
Right as it is. for there maye be noo cloude
Toforme his syght. trouth for to shroude
It may be clypsed. and derked by dyscete

Salamon
Trouth &
mercy pser
uey a kyng
fro all ad
uersyte
Chaūgene
doublinesse
sholde not
be in a kyn
ge

By false engyne lyeng in a wayte
 As a serpente. for to vndermyne
 But atte laste. it wyll clerely shyne
 who that sayth nay. shewe his bryght beames
 for it is in sothe. of kyngdomes & of reames
 Is better vp. and conseruatryce
 fro all myscheef. and souchaste medyatryce
 To god aboue. who soo lyst to see
 To kepe a kyng. in prosperyte
 On euery syde. as I affermely dare
 for whiche kyngis. and lordes be well ware
 youre behestes. Justly for to holde
 And thynke how Thebes. with his wall olde
 Destroyed was. platly this noo les
 for the doublenesse. of Ethyocles
 whiche his people. after soze abought
 Only for he not by counseyll wrought
 Of hem that were. bothe trewe and wyle
 hym lyst not worche. after her deuple
 But leste trouche. and lette his fantalse
 To be gouerned. by false flaterye
 That had hym thynke. how he was a knyght
 And to shelde of force. more than of ryght
 Duryng his lyfe. lordshyp of the towne
 And not for to lese. his possessyon
 for noo bonde. ne hestes made aforne
 But late his brother. blowen in a horne
 where that hym lyst. or pypen in a rede

Secunda

This was the counseyll. platly and the rede
Of such that lyst not. to sayen the southe
But falsly flater. with her wordes smothe
And whan they had. hole her tale fayned
Ethpocles. fully was enclyned
who soo euer there atte. lawghe or wepe
Lyke her counseyll. possession to kepe
who that saye nay. or grutche there agayne
hym to contrarpe. he thought it was but dayne

But in this whyle. hath the shene sonne
The .xii. sygnes. rounde aboute conne
Synch Ethpocle. by Juste rehenyng
In Thebes was crowned lord and kyng
holdyng the septure. and the dyademe
That by reason. as wolde seme
The tyme was full complete and the space
Of couenaunt. he sholde voyde his place
And polympte che. his Journey make
Towarde Thebes. possession to take
Of due tytle. but yf he hadde wronge
whiche thought in soch. yf yere was woud longe
Of his exyle. or it come aboute
And for he hadde in herte. a maner doute
Leste in his brother. there were falshe de fonde
To acqyte hymselfe. lyke as he was bonde
To Adrastus. he gan declare his herte
Belechynge hym. this mater to aduerte
And therupon. to geue his counseyll sone

How the ye
re was com
men oute y
Ethpocles
regned in
Thebes

Pars

Touchyng his right. what was beste to done
 where it was. beste to gone or to abyde
 Or lyke a knyght. manfully to ryde
 hymselfe allone. and make noo message
 for the chalange of his rightfull herytage
 within Thebes. eyther by peas or stryfe
 And therupon. to preperde his lyfe
 Thus was he sette. for all his fers brother
 But Adrastus sothly. thought a nother
 Better was to sende. than hymselfe to goon
 Leste he were trapped. among his mortall fooy
 Hauyng his brother. suspecte in the case
 That by fraude. or by some falase
 He wolde werke. to his destruccyon
 If he were hardy. to entrey in to the towne
 for whiche he hadde hym. prudently take hede
 full concludyng. how it was more spede
 That some other. be to Thebes sente
 To apperceyue. fully the entente
 Of Ethyocle. outwarde by some sygne
 And where that he his crowne wyl resygne
 for tylke yere. lyke as he made his othe
 And whan he knew. how his purpos goth
 Therupon to werke and procede
 Thus Adrastus. wysely gay hym rede

Tydeus to And whyle they treat. vpon this mater
 he vpon hē Tydeus with a manly chere
 to do fmes Sayd vtterly. for his brothers sake

Secunda

This message. he wolde undertake
 with hole tempyete. of the embassiate
 were it wylfull. or infortunate
 he wyl not spare. what soo that bytyde
 But Adrastus. on that other syde
 And Polymyte. in conclusyon
 weren contrarie. to that oppynyon
 And sayd sochly. as hem thought ryght
 Syth that he was. soo well aproued knyght
 And descended. of soo worthy blood
 That they nolde. for none erthly good
 for all Thebes. with the rygalpe
 put his body. in suche yeopardye

But all this thyng. auayled he right nouzt
 for he wold forth. how dere hit be bought
 Takynge leue. fyrste of all the states
 And armed hym. in mayle and sure plates
 And shope hym forth. vpon his Journey
 who made sorowe. but Deyphyle
 with bytter terres. dewed all her face
 full ofte syth. swownyng in the place
 Treste and mornyng. in her blake wede
 whan she sawe. that he toke his stede
 Soo inwardly. gan encrease her mone
 Seeng her lorde. soo ryde forth allone
 vpon his waye. this worthy Tydeus
 And in all haste. the story telleth vs
 He spede hym soo. makynge noo delayes

Sage of his
 brother Po
 lymyte

The sorow
 we of Dey
 phyle whā
 tyde^s went
 vnto The
 bes

Pars

That in space. of a fewē dayes
 The hye towres of Thebes he gan see
 And entred is in to the Lytee
 wysely enqueriſg. where the paleys stode
 And lyke a knyght. chyder streyte he rode
 Marked full well. in many mannes syght
 Lyche Mars hymselfe. in stele armed bryght
 Tyll he atteyned hath. the cheef dongyon
 where as the kyng. helde his mansyon
 And thrugh the paleys with a knyghtly lōke
 In to the halle. the right waye he toke
 fro his stede. whay he lyght down
 Not aferde. but hardy as a lyon
 where as the kyng. with lordes a grete route
 In the halle. syttyng rounde aboute
 He entred in moost manfull of coriage
 To execute. the fyne of this message
 And as hym thought. conuenyente and due
 full connyngly. he gay the kyng salue
 Requyryng hym of kyngly excellence
 In goodly wyse. to geue hym audyence
 And not dysdayne. neyther in porte ne chere
 Syth he was. come as a messagere
 from Polymyte. his owne brother dere
 Synnyng his tale thus. as ye shall here

How wysely
 & howe
 knyghtely

Quod he vnto poure worthynesse
 My purpos is. bryfly to expresse
 Theffecte oonly as in sentemente

Secunda

Of the message. why that I am sente
It were in vayne. longe processe for to make
But of my mater. the verraye grounde to take
In eschuyng. of prolixite
And voyde awaye. all superfluyte
Syth your selfe. best ought to vnderstonde
The cause fully. that we haue on honde
And eke conceyue. the sentente of my menyng
Of right wysnesse. longyng to a kyng
Fyrste consydred. yf that ye take hede
Whan Edyppus. the olde kyng was dede
How your selfe. and your brother blyue
For the crowne. contagiously gay styue
As mortall fooy. by full grete hatred
Whiche of you twoo. fyrste sholde succede
Tyll that ye weren. by meanes recounyled
The to regne. and he to be exyled
Out of this towne. for a yeres space
And than agayne. resorte to his place
To regne as kyng. and ye to voyde oute
Soo as your tourne. by processe come aboute
Eueryche of you. pacyently to endure
The enterchaungyng. of his aduenture
Who were putte oute. or stode in his estate
Therupon to make noo debate
Lyche the conuenaunce. and conuenyng
Enrolled vp. by lordes of this towne
Whiche of reason maye. not be denyed

tyde⁹ dyde
his messa⁹
ge

Pars

The requere
 He þe tydeus
 made in þe
 name of po
 lymyte and
 þe cytle of þe
 couenent

And syche ye haue. a yere I occupied
 Polymyte. requyretþ you of ryght
 To acquyte you. lyche a trewe knyght
 In elchewyng. of mortall werre and stryfe
 Syth ye haue hadde. a prorogetyfe
 As eldest brother. for to regne a forne
 And thynketh eke. how that ye are sworne
 youre othe to kepe. and make noo carpyng
 hole aduertynge. lyke a prudence kyng
 That trouth is more in comparyson
 Than all the tresoure. of youre regyon
 More acceptable. bothe to god and man
 Than all ryches. that ye reken can
 wherfore in haste. and let there be noo flouthe
 Dupteth youre selfe. Justly of your trowthe
 Vnto your brother. auoydying this cyte
 And lette hym regne. in his royalte
 The crowne of Thebes. a yere to occupye
 Than wyll all Grece. pryple and magnifye
 youre hye renoune. and maye saye none other
 But ye haue you. Justly to your brother
 This is hole theffecte. of all that I wyll saye
 Answer expectante. what ye lyst sende aye
Whan Tydeus hadde tolde his tale
 Echpocles. tryste and wonder pale
 his conceyte fyrste. in maner had refrayned
 Dyllymelyng. vnder coloure sayned
 Shewyng a chere. in maner debonayre

Secunda

To his entente. wondrously contrarie
Inwarde in herte. wood and furious
Tournyng his face. towarde Tydeus
But he gay abrayde. and atte laste outbrake
And euen thus. to hym he spake
I haue grete meruayle. quod he in my thought
Of the message. whiche thou hast I brought
That my brother. as thou haste expounded
Desyreth soo in Thebes. to be crowned
Hauyng rewarde. to the habondaunce
The grete plente. and the suffysaunce
That he hath now. with the kyng of Arge
That me semeth. that he sholde lytell charge
To haue lordshyp. or domynacyon
In the bondes. of this lytell towne
Synth he regneth. soo freschely in his floures
Surmountyng. all his predecessoures
By newe encrease. thourgh fortunes myght
Wherof in herte. I am right glad and lyght
Full trustyng. yf I hadde nede
To his helpe. that withoute drede
Lyke a brother. than I sholde hym fynde
To mewarde. faythfully trewe and kynde
Supposyng. playnly euermore
Of this regne. he sette but lytyll store
Nor caste hym not. for soo shorte a whyle
As for a yere. his brother to exyle
To lyue in pouerte. and grete dystresse

I haue grete
meruaylle
quod tydeus
The aswe
re of ethyo
ples

He wyll not suffre it of his grete noblesse
 It were noo token of noo brotherhede
 But a sygne rather of hatrede
 To interrupte. of my possessyon
 Of this lytyll poore regyon
 All that he spake. whoo that coude aduerte
 Of betrayl come. rosted in his herte
 As it semeth. the story can you teche
 By the surplus. sothly of his speche
 He myght not. hym noo lenger refrayne
 But platly sayd. as tweyne vs twayne
 I mene thus polmyte and me
 There is noo bonde. nother suerte
 Nor fayth I made. that maye hym auayle
 As he claymeth. to haue the gouernayle
 Of this Cytee. nother yere ne daye
 For I shall lette hym sothly yf I maye
 That he shall not. by cytle of noo bonde
 Reioyse in Thebes. halfe a fote of londe
 Lette hym kepe. all that he hath wonne
 For I purpose. as I haue begonne
 To regne in Thebes. hensforthe all my lyfe
 Maugre all hem that there agayne stryfe
 And in despyte. of his frendes all
 Or the counseyll. that hym lyfte call
 Lette hym be sure. and know this right well
 His manassyng. I drede neuer a dele
 And syherly. as to myne ayle

Secunda

It sheweth well. that thou were not wyle
But supprysyng. with a maner rage
To take on the. this surquydous message
And presume. to done soo hye offence
Soo boldly to speke in my presence
But all I fere. auayle shall ryght nought
for the tydynge. that thou haste brought
Shall vnto hym. be but dysencrees
He better were. to haue in pees
Than of folye. and presumption
Agaynst me. to seke occasyon
for whyle I leue. and therto here myne honde
As I sayd erste. he wynneth here noo londe
for fynally. I doo the to vnderstonde
whyle the walle. of this towne maye stonde
That they shall fyrste. be bete down full lowe
And all the toures. to the erthe I throwe
Or he in Thebes. haue ony thyng to doo
Loo here is all. retourne and laye hym soo
When Tydeus sawe. the feruente yre
Of the kyng. with anger sette a fyre
full of dyspyte. and malencolye
Conceyving eke. the grete felonye
In his appoite. lyke as he were wood
This worthy knyght. a lytyll whyle stood
Sadde and demure. or he wolde ought seyn
But atte laste. thus he spake ageyn
Letteys quod he. I conceyue of newe

The kny

ghtely and
swere of thy
deus ayen
to þ kyng

Aboute the. thy counseyll is vntrewe
I dare it sayn. and bowen arte leste
Nor thou arte. faythfull of thy behest
Stable of thy worde. that þ hast sayd tofome
But dysceyuable. and fallly eke forsworne
And eke periure. of thyne assured othe
But where soo be. that thou be leff or lothe
I say the shortly. holde it for noo fage
All shall tourne. vnto thy damage
Truste it well. and in full cruell wyse
All Grekes londe. shall vpon the ryle
To ben auenged. and manly to the redresse
The grete vntrouch. and the hye falsnesse
Whiche that þ haste. agayn thy brother wrought
It shall full dere. after this be bought
And verrayly in dede. as thou shalt lere
Lyng Adrastus. wyl medell in this mater
And all the lordes. aboute hym enuyron
That bounde ben. to his subgeccyon
Prynces Dukes. and many a noble knyght
In susteynyng. of thy brothers ryght
Shall vpon a daye. with spere and shelde
Agayns the be gadred. in a felde
Lynghly to proue. all by one assente
That thou arte fals. and double of entente
Of thy promyse. atteynt and eke outrayed
And leue me well. it shall not be delayed
But in all the haste. execute in dede

Secunda

Lyke thy deserte. thou shalt haue thy mede
for god aboute. of his ryghtwysnesse
Suche open wronge. shall in haste redresse
And of his myght. all suche conclusyon
Refourme agayne. and all extorsyon
for this the tyme. falshe dede shall not auayle
Agayne trowth. to holde batayle
wronge is croked. bothe halte and lame
And here anone. in my brothers name
As I that am his next allie
In his quarell. I shortly the desyre
fully auyled. with all my hole entente
And the lordes. that ben there presente
I you requyre. of your worthynesse
To save trowth. and to bere wytnesse
whan tyme cometh. Justly to recorde
How youre kyng. falsly can dyscorde
from his heste. of false varyaunce
And thynke how ye. of fayth and lygaunce
Arne bonde echone. ye maye not goo therfro
for to obeye. and seruen bothe twoo
This next yere. now anone folowynge
As to youre lorde. and youre trewe kyng
Polymyte. though he be now absente
By Juste accorde. made in perlemente
At youre deuyse. whiche sytten here arowe
Engroled vp as it is right well knowe
And enrolled. oonly for wytnesse

In your regestres. to voyden all falmelle
 That none of you. darre maye of newe
 For that I saye. but yf he be vntrewe
 For whiche I rede. your selfe to acquyte
 Lette noo tyme lenger you respyte
 But attones. withoute more taryeng
 Of manly force. setteth home your kyng
 Mauger his soon. lyke as ye are bounde
 And lette in you. noo slouth be founde
 To putte hym Justly in possessyon
 This my counseyll. in conclusyon

AS Tydeus had his message sayde
 Lyke to the charge. & was on hym layde
 As he that lyst. noo lenger there sojourne
 Fro the kyng. he gan his face tourne
 Not astonyed. nor in his herte a ferde
 But full proudly. leyde his honde on his swerde
 And in despyte. whoo that was less or loth
 A sterne paas. thorough the hall he goeth
 Thought out & courte. & manly toke his stede
 And oute of Thebes. faste gan hym spede
 Enhastynge hym. tyll he was att large
 And spede hym forth. toward the lond of Arge
 Thus leue I hym. ryde forth a whyle
 Whyle that I retourne agayne my stile
 Vnto the kyng. that in the hall stode
 And amonge his lordes furpous and wode
 In his herte wrothe. and euill apayed

How tydeus
 manly des-
 parted fro
 the kyng

Secunda

Of the wordes that Tydeus had layde
Specyally haupng remembraunce
On the proude. dyspytous dyffyaunce
Whyles that he laste. in his royall see
Upon whiche. he wyll auenged bee
full cruelly. what euer that befalle
And in his pre. he gay to hym calle
Thyfe constable. of his chynaltre
Chargyng hym faste for to hve
with all the worthy chole. of his housholde
whiche as he knew. most manfull & most bolde
In all haste. Tydeus to sue
Toforn. or he oute of his londe renue
Upon payne of lyffe. and lesyng of her hede
withoute mercy. anone that he be dede
And of knyghtes. fyfty were in nombre
Myne auctour sayth. vnwarly hym tencombe
Armed echone. in mayle and thyk stele
And therwith all 3 horsed wounder wele
Atte a posterne. forth they gay to ryde
By agayne path. that laye oute asyde
Secretly. that noo may hem aspye
Donly of treason. and felonye
They haste hem forth all the longe daye
Of cruell malyce. for to stop his waye
Thorough a foreste. all of one assente
full cowardly. to laye a bushemente
Vnder an hylle. at a strayte passage

How falsly
ly ethiodes
layd a bush
shemete in
f valey to
haue slayn
Tydeus

Pars

To falle vpon hym. at more auantage
 The same waye. that Tydeus gay drawe
 Atte chylk mounte. where Spyr was slawe
 He nothyng ware in his oppynow
 Of this compassed. conspyracyon
 But Innocent. and lyke a gentyll knyght
 Rode ap foich. tyll it drew to nyght
 Sole by hymselfe. withoute compayne
 Hauyng noo may to wyle hym or to guye
 But atte laste. lpfyng vp his hede
 Towarde eue and gay take hede
 In mynde of his waye. right as ony lyne
 Thought he sawe apen the more shyne
 Sheldes freshe. and places bourned bryght
 The whiche enuyrou. casten a grete lyght
 Vmagynyng. in his fantasie
 There was treason. and conspyracye
 Wrought by the kyng. his Journey for to lette
 And of all that. he nothyng sette
 But well assured. in his manly herte
 Lyfte not ones. asyde to dyuerse
 But kepte his waye. his shelde vpon his breste
 And caste his spere. manly in his reste
 And the fyrste platly. that he mette
 Thorough the body. proudly he hym smette
 That he fell dede. chyfe mayster of hery all
 And thav attones. they vpon hym falle
 On euery parte. by compass enuyrou

How tydes
 outcrayed
 fyfty kny
 ghtes þ lay
 in a wayte
 for to see
 hym

Secunda

But Tydeus. though his hye renown
his bloody swerde. let aboute hym glyde
Sleeth and kylled. vpon every syde
In his pre. and in his mortall tene
That meruayle was. he myght so lusteyne
Ayeu hem all. in every halfe he sette
But his swerde. was soo sharpe I whette
That his foov. founde full vnswette
But he alas. was lyght on fete
By force grounded. in full grete dystresse
But of knyghthode. and of grete prowesse
Up he rose. maugre all his foov
And as they come. he slewe hem one by one
Lyke a lyon rampant in his rage
And on this hylle. he fonde a narowe passage
Whiche that he toke. of full hye prudence
And lyke a bore. standyng at his defence
As his foo men. proudly hym assaile
Vpon the playue. he made her blood to rayle
All enuyron. that the soyle waxe rede
Now here now there. as they fylle dede
That laye here one. & there laye twoo or thre
Soo mercyles. in his fers crueltee
Thylke daye he was. vpon hem founde
And attones. his enmyes to confounde
Where as he stode. this myghty campyowne
Besyde he sawe. with water tourned downe
A huge stone. large longe and square

Pars

And sodaynly. or that they were ware
As it had layen there for the nones
Vpon his foote. he rolled it attones
That ten of hem. wenten vnto wrake
And the remenaunte. amased drowe a bake
For one by one. they wente to myschance
And fynally he brought to outrance
Hem euerychone. Tydeus as blyue
That none but one. left of hem a lyue
Hemselfe I hurte. and I wounded hene
Thorough his harneys. bledying on the grene
The slayne knyghtis. in compas rōde aboute
In the vale. slayne all the route
Whiche pyteously. agayne the more gape
For none of theym. shortly myght escape
But dede echone. as they it haue deserued
Saaf one excepte. the whiche was reserued
By Tydeus. of this entencion
To the kyng to make relacyon
How his knyghtes. haue on her Journey sped
Eueryche of hem. his lyfe left for awed
And atte metyng. how they haue hem borne
To telley. all he sūred was and twome
To Tydeus full. lowly on his knee
By whiche ensample. openly ye may see
Agayne trouche. falschede hath noo myght
fye on quarels. not grounded vpon ryght
Withoute whiche. maye be noo bytoye

How trou-
che with ly-
tell mulcys

Secunda

Therefore eche man. haue this in memorye
That grete power. shortly to conclud
Plente of good. nor moche multytude
Sleyght or engeny. force or folonye
Arne to feble. to holde champartye
Agayne trowth. who that lyst take hede
For atte ende. fals hede maye not spede
To endure longe. the sholde fynde it this.
Reorde I take. of worthy Tydeus
Whiche with his honde. thugh tronpes excellen
fytty knyghtes slewe. in his defence (ce
But one excepte. as I late tolde
Sworne & assured. and his honde vpholde
The kyng to enfourme. how they were attayne
And Tydeus of bledynge. wounder faynt
Heat and wery. and in grete dystresse
And ouerlayd. of verray feblynesse
But as he myght. hymselfe to sustene
He toke his horse. standyng on the grene
Worched vp. and forth he gay to ryde
An easy pace. with his woundes wyde
And shortly yet. in his oppnyon
He was alwaye. aferde of treason
But anguysshous. and full of bely payne
He rode hym forth. tyll he dyde attayne
To the bondes. of Lygurgus londe
A worthy kyng. and manly of his honde
And he full pale. oonly for lacke of blode

tude hath
euer in the
fyne vptos
rye of falls
hede

How tyde
all for wou
ded come

Pars

to to Lygur
gus londe

Tydeus sa we. where a castell stode
 Stronge and myghty. bylde vpon a roche
 Towarde whome. faste he gay approche
 Conueyed chyder. by clerenesse of the stone
 That by nyght. agayn the mone shone
 On the towres. with cresses marcyall
 And Jopnyng. all moost to the wall
 Was a gardayne. lpyll oute belyde
 In to whome. Tydeus gay to ryde
 Of auenture. by a gate small
 And there he founde. for to rekey all
 A lusty Erber. vnto his deuple
 Swete and freshe. lyche a paradysse
 Verray heuenly. of inspeccyon
 And fyrste of all. he lyghted a down
 The goodly place. whan that he behelde
 And from his nek. auoyded hath his shelde
 Drawe his byrdell. fro his horse hede
 Lete hym goon. and take noo maner hede
 Thruogh the gardayn. that enclosed was
 Hym to pasture. on the grene gras
 And Tydeus. more heuy than is lede
 Vpon the herbes. grene whyte and rede
 As hym thought. that tyme for the beste
 He layde hym downe. for to take his reste
 Of weyrynesse. desyrous to slepe
 And none awayte. his body for to kepe
 And with dremes. grutchted euer amonge

Secunda

There he laye. tyll the lark songe
With notes newe. hye vpon in the hayre
The glad morowe. rody and ryght fayre
Phebus also. castyng vp his beemes
The hye hylles. gylte with his streames
The syluer dewe. vpon the herbes rounde
There Tydeus laye. vpon the grounde
Atte the vpryfte. of the shene sonne
And stoundmele. his grene woundes ronne
Rounde aboute. that the soyll depeynte
Of the grene. with rede meynthe
And euery morow. for hollumnesse of the heyre
Lygurgus doughter. made her repayre
Of custome. ay among the floures newe
In the gardayne. of many dyuerse hewe
Suche Joye had. for to take hede
On her stalkes. for to see hem sprede
In the alayes walkyng to and fro
And whan she had. a lytyll whyle go
Her selfe allone. castyng vp her syght
She behelde. where an armed knyght
Laye to reste hym. on the herbes colde
And hym belyde. she gay eke beholde
His myghty stede. walkyng here and there
And she anone. fell in a maner fere
Specyally. whan she sawe the blode
Spriad all the grene. aboute there she stode
But at laste. she caught hardynesse

How lygur
g^r dought
fonde tide^r
slepyng in
the erber al
forwounded

Pars

And womanly. gav her for to dresse
 Toward this knyght. hauyng a maner of pres
 And gav grete doute. lest þ he were dede (de
 And of her wyl. soothly it was cheef
 That she thought. for to make a preef
 How that it stode. of this may full ofte
 And forth she gooth. & touched hym full softe
 There as he laye. with her hondes smale
 And with a face dedely. bleyke and pale
 Lyche as a may. dawed in a swone
 Up he sterte. and his swerde he drowe
 Not fully oute. but put it up agayne,
 Anone as he hath the lady sayne
 Belechying her. oonly of her grace
 To haue pyte vpon his trespase
 And rewe on hym. of her womanhede
 For of afraye. he was falle in drede
 Leste he had. assayled be of newe
 Of the Thebanis. preued full vntrewe
 For dred of whiche he was soo recheles
 Full humbly yeldyng hym to the pees
 Truste in hymselfe. he passed had his boundes
 And whan that she sawe his mortall woundes
 She had rouche. of verraye gentelleste
 Of his dysleale. and of his dystresse
 And bad he sholde. noo thyng be dysmayed
 Nor in herte sorowfull. nor afrayed
 Dyscomforte hym. in noo maner thyng

Howe was
 manly þ la
 dy acquy

Secunda

for I quod she. am doughter to the kyng
Called Iygurge. that gretly me delyte
Euery moꝛowe. this gardayne to vlyte
It is to me. soo passyngly dyspoite
wherfore quod she. byth of good comfoꝛte
for noo wyght here. touchyng your vyage
Shall hynder you. ne doo you noo damage
And yf ye lyst. of all youre aduenture
The playne trouthe. to me dyscure
I wyll in south. doo my besynesse
To refourme. your greuous heynesse
with all my myght. and myne hole dyligence
That I hope. of youre grete offence
ye shall haue helpe. in youre aduersyte
And as ferforthe. as it lyeth in me
Trusteth right well. ye shall noo faute fynde
And whan he sawe. that he was kyng
Soo womanly. soo goodly and soo benygne
In all her poite. by many dyuerse sygne
He vnto her. by order wolde not spare
His aduentures. fully to declare
In thebes fyrste. touchyng his melleage
And all the hylle. of the wood rage
Of his woundes. and hurtes soꝛe
It were but vayne. to reherse it moꝛe
By and by. he tolde her euery dele
The whiche in soth. she lyked neuer a dele
But had reuche and compassyon

teeth her to
tyde⁹ in his
dylease.

Pars

How tyde
was refel-
shed in the
castell of p
lady

Of his mylchpyfe. wrought by false treasour
Byddyng in haste. that he sholde her sue
And womanly. as her thought due
To a chambrie she lad hym vp a losse
Full well besayn. there in a bed right losse
Rychely abouten apparayled
With clothe of golde. all the flore I rayed
Of the same. bothe in length and brede
And fyrste this lady. of her womanhede
Her wymmen bad. as goodly as she can
To be attendaunte. on this wounded man
And whan he was vnarmed to his sherte
She made fyrste. washe his woundes smerte
And serche hem well. with dyuerse instrumentis
And made fette. sondry oynementis
And leches eke. the beste that she coude fynde
Full craftely. to staunchen hem and to bynde
And euery thyng. that maye doo hem ease
To swage his payne. or his woo to pease
was in the courte. and in the castell sought
And by her byddyng. to the chambrie brought
And for his sake. she hath after sente
for suche depates. as were conuenyente
Moost nutryptye. by physykes lore
Hem that were syke. or wounded to restore
Makyng her wymmen. eke to taken kepe
And waite on hym. a nyghtes whan he slepe
And be well ware. that noo thyng a sterre

Secunda

That was or myght. he luffy to his herce
 And with all this. she prayed hym to abyde
 Tyll he were strong. and myghty for to ryde
 To the castell. to playe hym and dysporte
 And at leysur. home agayne resorte
 Whan he myght. bywelde hym at his large
 But all for nought. he wyll home to Arge
 Toke his leue. on the next daye
 Withoute abode. to haste hym on his waye
 Lowly thankyng. vnto her goodnesse
 Of her fredome. & of her bounteous largenesse
 So wommanly. that her lyst take hede
 Hym to refreche. in his grete nede
 Behotyng her. with all his full myght
 He wolde be her seruaunte. and her knyght
 Whyle he lyueth. of what she wolde hem charge
 And forth he rode. tyll he come to Arge
 In full grete haste. & wolde noo where dwelle
 But what sholde I rehersey other telle
 Of his repaire. the costes or the playns
 The craggy roches. or the hye mountayns
 Or all the maner. of his home comyng
 Of the metyng. or of the welcomyng
 Nor the Joye that Adrastus made
 Nor how his suster. ne his wyfe were glad
 Nor how that they. where to sholde I wyfte
 Embrased hym. in her armes wyte
 Nor the gaderyng. aboute hym ne the piece

How tyde
 repayreth
 home to Ar
 ge alle for
 wounded &
 sore I hurte

Nor the sorowe. that Polyxene
 Made in hymself. to see hym soo sore wounded
 His greuous hurttes. his sorowes che vnfounde
 His dedely loke. and his face pale
 Of all this. to gyue a newe tale
 It were in souch a maner ydelnesse
 Nor how hymselfe. in ordre dyde expresse
 fyrste how that he. in Thebes hath hym borne
 Nor how the kyng. fally was forwoine
 Nor of the awayte. nor treason that he sette
 whan fyfty knyghtes. on the waye hym mette
 As he haue herde. all the maner howe
 withoute whiche. my tale is longe ynowe
 But Adrastus. made mey to seche
 In euery coste. for many dyuerse leche
 To come in haste. and make noo tarpeng
 vpon a payne. by byddyng of the kyng
 To done her crafte. that he were recured
 And of his force. in euery parte assured
 And they echone. soo her connynges shewe
 That in space. of dayes fewe
 He was all hole made. of his sykenesse
 Tho was there Joye. tha was there gladnesse
 Thorough the courte. and thorough all the towne
 for euery man. hath suche oppynyon
 In Tydeus. for his gentyllesse
 for his manhode. and his lowlynesse
 That he was holde. the moost famous knyghte

Secunda

And beste beloued. in euery mannes syghe
Thorough oute Grece. in euery regyon
But now muste I make. a dygressyon
To telle shortly. as is sentemente
Of thylke knyght. that Tydeus hath sente
To Thebes. only to declare
The grette myschyste. and the euyll fare
Vnto the kyng. how it is befall
The open trouthe. of his knyghtes all
How Tydeus hath slayne hym euerychone
That saaf hymselfe. there escaped none
That were reserved. fro shedyng of his blode
The kyng to telle. playnly how it stode
And whan he had. reherfed euery poynte
Ethyocles stode. in suche dysioynte
Of hartfull yre. that he ware nye wode
And in his tene. and in his fell mode
Of cruell malyce. to the knyght he spake
And felly sayde. that it was for lake
Only of manhode. thorough her cowardyse
That they were slayne. in soo mortall wyse
And hanged be he. hys by the nek
That of your deth. or of your slaughter reh
Or you complayne. other one or all
Of the myscheef. that is you befall
I doo noo force. that none of you asterte
But lye vpon. youre false coward herce
That one knyght. thrugh his hys renoune

How ethyocles was attoned whā he herde þ deth of his knyghtes

hath brought you all to confusyon
 full graces and full unhappy to
 Naye quod this knyght. it is not so
 It is thyne unhap. playnly and not oures
 That soo many. worthy werryoures
 whiche all her lyfe. neuer had shame
 Excepte this quarell. taken in thyne name
 That grounded was. and roted in falnesse
 This was cause. in verray spherne
 Of oure unhappe. I wote well and none other
 And the vntrouthe. done vnto thy brother
 And that thou were. soo openly forsworne
 A percell cause. why that we were forlorne
 was false brekyng. of thyne assured othe
 And tho the kyng. all moost mad for wrothe
 In purpose was. for to slea this knyght
 Only for he layde vnto hym ryght
 The whiche myles alas. both at eue & morowe
 Supprised was. with a dedely sorowe
 Renewed ay in his remembraunce
 With the pyteous. and unhappy chaunce
 Of the myscheef. and myslauenture
 Touchyng the deth. and the dyscomfytur
 Of his fers. and of hymselfe also
 That the shamfaste. importable wo
 Soo fratte on hym. with suche a mortall crye
 That he was wery. of his owne lyfe
 Hente a swerde. and a syde sterre

Secunda

And roste hymselfe. euen to the herte
The kyng hymselfe. beyng the presente
That the romoure. and the noyle is wente
Thruugh oute all Thebes. and the wood rage
By such as were. Joynded by lynage
To the knyghtes. slayne atte hyl
That all attones. of one herte and wyll
They wolde haue rylen. thruugh out all the cyte
Vpon the kyng. auenged for to be
Whiche of her deche. was cheef occasyon
But the barons. and the lordes of the towg
Full hely were. this rumoure to dyscease
Of hys prudence. to stynted and appeale
In quyte. euery thyng to sette
And after that the bodyes home they sette
Of the knyghtes. lyke as ye haue herde
A corne I slayne. with the bloody swerde
Of Tydeus. full sharpe whette and grounde
And in the felde. soo as they hem founde
Donly of loue. and of affeccyon
Solempnely. they brought hem to the towg
And lyke the maner of her rightes olde
They were fyrste brente. to to ashes colde
Eueryche I buried. lyche to his degree
Too here halendes of aduersytee
Sorrowe vpon sorrowe. and destruccyon
Fyrste of the kyng. and all the regyon
For lacke only. lyke as I you tolde

That behests, truly were not holde
 fyrst grounde and rote. of this ruyne
 As the story. clerely shall determyne
 And myne tale hereafter. shall you lere
 If you lyst. the remenaunce for to here

¶ Explicit pars Secunda.

¶ Sequitur pars Tercia.

O Cruell Mars. full of malencolpe
 And of thy kynde. hote combust & drye
 As the sperdes. shewen fro soo fer
 By the stremes. of the rede ster
 In thy spere. as it aboute gothe
 what was cause. that thou were soo wrothe
 with hem of Thebes. thrugh whos fervent yre
 The Lytee brente. and was sette a fyre
 As bookes olde. well reherse konne
 Of cruell hate. roted and begonne
 And engendred. the story maketh mynde
 Only of blood. corrupte and unkynde
 By infectyon. called orgynall
 Causyng a stryfe. dredfull and mortall
 Of whiche the myscheef. thrugh all Grece ran
 And kyng Acastus. alder fyrst began
 That hath bym caste. a conqueste for to make
 Upon Thebes. for Polymptes sake

Tercia

In knyghthly wyse. there to proue his myght
 Of full entente. to recure his ryght
 And fyrste of all. he sette a parlyamente
 And hath his letters. and messengers sente
 Through out Grece. to many soundry kynges
 hem to enhaile. and make noo lettynge
 And rounde aboute. as made is mencyon
 he sente also. to many Regyon
 for prynces dukes. lordes and barons
 To taken vp. in cytees and in townes
 And cheley out. the moost lyklyeste
 And suche that wery prued for the beste
 And of manhode. and sende hem vp echone
 And in her honde. receyue her paye anone
 with Adrastus. to Thebes for to ryde
 And the lordes. that with hym abyde
 In housholde styll haue her leue take
 To rydey home. her retenu to make
 In theyr countrees. as they were of degree
 To stufen hem. and to take vp mayne
 And make hem strong. with knyghts & squyres
 with speres bowes. and with arblastres
 In all the haste possyble. that they maye
 And to retourne. in her beste araye
 Atte ferme sette. full manly to be layen
 To forne Arge. moustren in a playn
 And as I rede. full worthy of degree
 Thyder came fyrste. Prothonolope

The grete
 purueaunce
 of kyng A/
 drastus to/
 warde f cy
 te of thebes

The kyngs
 ges & pryn

ers that co
me with a/
drastus

The whiche was. by recorde of wrytyng
Of Archada. sone to the kyng
And full prudence. fonde to werte and peas
There come also. the kyng Cylmythenes
And as I fynde. full famous of renoun
Thyder come eke. the kyng Eppymedon
And passyng all. of knyghthode and of name
And excellyng. by worthynesse of fame
The noble kyng. called Campaneus
Come eke to Arge. the story telleth vs
Proued right well. and had ryden fer
And thyder come. the kyng Melleager
Lying Genor eke. that helde his royall sete
Myne auctoure sayth. in the londe of Crete
Lying Laerps. and the kyng of Pyrrus
And eke the kyng. called Tortalanus
And renowned in many regyon
There come the kyng. Inamed polemon
Ofte assayed and I founde. a manly knyght
That with hym brought. in stele armed byght
Full many worthy. oute of his countree
And Tydeus. moost knyghely for to see
That manly man. that noble werryoure
As he that was. of worthynesse flour
Mayster and myrrour. by prouesse of his bonde
Hath sente also. in to the myghty londe
Of Calydonye. wherof he was beyre
That is a kyngdome. bothe riche and feyre

Tercia

Chargyng his counseyll. and his offycers also
To all the haste. that it may be do
To seken oute the beste werryours
Of famous knyghtes. and proued saundyours
Thruugh all the lond. & leyd on hem this charge
Withoute abode. for to come to Arge
And they obey shall. his byddyng
Enhallyng hem. and made noo lettynge
But sped hem faste. vpon her Journeys
And from Thebes. the myghty strong Lyte
Come downe knyght. with many a nother mā
Mauger the kyng. to helpe what they can
Conspired fyrste. his falsheede and treason
I mened oonly. of trouth and of reason
Polymytes. as they were sworne of pore
To his crowne. Justely to restore
And whan they weren. at large out of the towne
To Arge they be descended downe
And lyke her othe. and theyre assuraunce
As they weren bounde. oonly of lygaunce
To hym they came. in full lowly wyse
Redy to done. what hym lyst to deuple
And whan he had. her trouth full conceyued
He hath to grace. goodly hem receyued
Assygnyng hem. her place myd the ooste
Assembled there. fro many dyuerse coste
That fynally. in this companye
I gadred was. the floure of chyualrye

Pars

I choley oute. of all Grekes londe
The moost knyghely. & manfull of her bonde.
That I trowe. sythe the worlde began
There was not seen. soo many manly may
Soo well horsed. with spere and with shelde
Togyder assembled. sooth in a felde
There men myght see. many strange gyfes
Of armyng newe. and vncouthe deuyle
Every man after his fantasye
That yf I sholde. in order specyfye
Every pees longyng to armure
And therupon. doo my bely cure
It were in south. almost a dayes werke
And the termes. ben also to derke
To reherse hem clerely. and to tyme
I passe ouer. only for lacke of tyme
And telle I wolde. forth of her lodgyng
How Adrastus. the noble worthy kyng
Hath every lorde. lyke to his degree
Receyueth well. within his cytte
And there they had. lyke to her pleasaunce
Of what nedeth. fullsome habondaunce
For man and horse. plente of vytayle
Commaundyng. that noo thyng ne fayle
That all these noble werreours
For the hye and lowe. and poore laudyours
I serued were. of that they had nede
For Adrastus. prudently toke hede

what daye

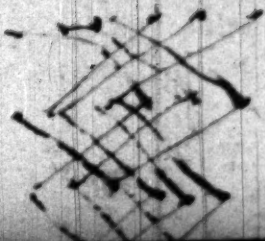
Tercia

full lyke a kyng. touchyng her terme daye
That they to some. were serued of her paye
He was soo free. hym lyke. nothyng restrayne
And noo man. had cause to complayne
Hunger. thurste. nor Indygence
And in a prynce. it is full grete offence
As clerkes say. and a grete repzete
To suffre his people. lyuen at mylchefe
It is full heuy. and greuous in her thought
If he habonde. and they haue ryght nought
He maye not both. possede good and herte
He to be riche. and seev his people smerte
He maye the body. of poore well constreyne
But her herte. hath a full longe reyne
Mauger his myght. to louen at large
There maye noo kyng. on hertes sette a charge
Nor hem cohercen. from her lybertee
Men seen full ofte. how that thought is free
For whiche eche prynce. lorde and gouernoure
And specyally. euery conqueroure
Lete hym beware. for all his noblesse
That bounte fredome. plente and largesse
By one accorde. that they his byrdell lede
Lesse of his people. whan he hath moost nede
He be defrauded. whan he is but allone
Thay is to late. for to make his mone
But in his courte. lete hym fyrste deuple
To exple scarshede and couetyse

leth a kyng
to pay his
peple truly
her soude

Nota

Nota
Howe loue
auaylethe



Pars

more a kyn
ge than gold
or grete ry-
chelle

Chay is he lybly. with fredome yf he gynne
 Loue of his people. euermore to wyne
 To regne longe. in honoure and contune
 Ay to encrease. by fauoure of fortune
 And his enmyes. manly to oppresse
 For loue is more. than golde or grete richesse
 Golde fayleth ofte. loue wyll abyde
 For lyffe or deeth. by a lordes syde
 And the tresoure. shortly of a kyng
 Standeth in loue. about all thyng
 Fare well lordshyp. bothe morowe and eue
 Specyally. whan loue taketh his leue
 And who so lyffe. a myrrour for to make
 Of kyndly fredome. lette hym ensample take
 Of Adrastus. the manly kyng famous
 Soo lyberall. soo bounteous
 Vnto his people. at all tyme founde
 Whiche made hym strong. his fomen to confoi
 And loue oonly. his enmyes to werreye (de
 All grece. made his byddynge to obeye
 Of one accorde. knyghely by his syde
 All attones. to Thebes for to ryde
 For tauenge. syth they were soo strong
 The grete Iniurye. and the Importable wrong
 Done to his sone. and to his next allye
 As ye to forne. haue harde me specyfy
 But whyle Grekes. arreste a whyle in pes
 I wyll resorte to Etyocles

Nota

Cercia

with Junne Thebes. warly hath aspyed
By his frendes. as he was certefyed
Of the Grekes. hole the ordynaunce
Her purpos the. and her purueaunce
And therof had in herte. a maner drede
And fyrste he toke. his counseyll and his rede
Of the lordes. and of the barons of the towne
And of the wysest. of his regyon
How he myght. makeyn resystance
Manly to stande. at defence
To be strong. that there were noo doubt
And in tho contrees. adiacente aboute
And eke also. in foreyn regyons
He hath withholde. all the champpons
And therupon. he sente oute his aspyes
And his frendes. and his next allyes
And all the worthy. dwellyng enuyrowne
Ponge freshe and lusty. he gadred in to towne
Malkowede his walles. and his hye toures
And stuffed hem. with many ladyoures
Rounde aboute. he sette many gonnes
Grette and smale. and some large as tonnes
And in his hasty. passyng feruente hete
He spente his tresoure. and gaf yestes grete
Vnto knyghtes. and worthy men of name
And evermore. to encrease his fame
He gave to lordes. Jewels many folde
Clothes of veluette. of damaske and of golde

g iiii

How ethyo
cles made
him strong
ayen the co
mynge of þ
Grekes

To gete hym hertes. sochly as I rede
 To helpe hym now. in this grete nede
 And prudently putueped hym to some
 Of flesshe and fysh. and of wyne and come
 Sette his Capyteyns. erly and late
 With full styfe stronge. at every gate
 He made also. by werthmyn that were trewe
 Barbycans. and bolwerkes newe
 Barres chaynes. and dyches wounder depe
 Makynge his dowre. the Lytee for to kepe
 Whyle he lyueth. despyte of all his foyn
 And by his goddes. of metall and of stoon
 Full ofte he swore. bothe of herte and thought
 That it shall fyrste. full dere beyn a bought
 And many a man. with pollax & sword & knyfe
 To forne this towne. fyrste shall lese his lyfe
 And there shall eke. many sydes blede
 Of his brother. peaslybly possede
 The towne in peas. lyke as Grekes were
 But atte ende. the trouth shall be sene
 Lete hym beware. and well to forne proude
 For Adrastus. on that other syde
 For his parte. was not necligence
 But on a daye. helde a parlyamente
 All his lordes. syttyng enuyron
 To dryue shortly. a playne conclusyon
 And vp thappoynte. the fyne of her entente
 But some thought. full expediente.

Of they procede. to werke by chaunce
 Of one that was. full prudence and right wyle
 And circumspecte. in his werkes all
 A worthy bysshop. in to age fall
 And called was sochly by his name
 Amphiporax. of whome the grete fame
 Thruogh all the londe. both est and south
 Among Grekes. passyngly was couth
 A man in sothe. of olde antyquyte
 And moost excepted. of auctorite
 fyrste by reasoun. of his hys estate
 And eke. for he was soo fortunate
 In his werkes. and was also secree
 with the goddes. knowyng her pryuetee
 By graunte. of whome as boke specyfy
 He had a spyryte. of trewe prophecye
 And coude a forne. full openly dyuyne
 Thynges begonne. how they sholde fyne
 And eke by crafte. of calculacyon
 Gyue a dome. of euery questyon
 And had in Magyk. grete experyence
 And fynde coude. by heuenly Influence
 And by meanyng. of hys sterres
 A fynall dome. of contek and of werres
 And wylt well. as his goddes tolde
 That yf Grekes. forth her Journey holde
 It tourne sholde. platly this noo phage
 To grete myschyfe. and to grete domage

How þ byss
 shop āphio
 rax was set
 for to come
 to þ grekes

And wylte
 well þ trewe
 pphecye of
 bysshop am

Pars

phynax

Of hys echone. and to especyall
 The most parte. of the blode royall
 Though all Grece. it maye not be withdrawe
 In this vyage. shortly shall be slawe
 And yf hymselfe. with the Grekes wente
 Who that ever wepte. hym or by mente
 This was the fyne. and maye not be socoured
 Of the erthe. he sholde be deuoured
 Duple as he was. he knew none other in sette
 And for he saw. there was non other geyne (ne
 To saue his lyfe. nor noo bet defence
 Than utterly. to withdrawen his presence
 Prayeng his wyfe. for hym to proude
 If he were sought. that she wolde hym hyde
 And womanly. for to kepe hym close
 And of crouth. counceley his purpose
 For all his truste. touchyng his greuaunce
 Was fully sette. in her preyvaunce
 I hope to god. that he nede not drede
 Of noo decerte. in her womanhede
 She was soo trewe. as wemen ben euerychone
 And also close. and muet as a stone
 That she ne wolde. as the mater stode
 Dyscure hym. for noo wordly gode
 But fynally. the Grekes of entente
 In all his drede. haue for the bysshop sente
 Though it was long. or they myght hym fynde
 For cause his wyfe. was to hym soo kynde

Cercia

That full suerly. hath locked vp his cois
But for she had. a maner remours
To her selfe. greuyng her conscience
Dredyng to falle. in full grete offence
Lesse her soule. were in perell lorne
Whan she by othe. compelled was a sworne
There requyryng. yf she coude telle
where her lord. the bysshop sholde dwelle
whiche to dyscure. her herte was full lothe
Tyll tyme she ganne. remembren on her othe
And coude a trouthe of custome not denye
And had also grete conscience to lye
wounder heuy. with a sorowfull face
Mauger her luste. caught hem to the place
where as he was. shytted vp in a toure
All allone. hauyng noo socoure
They fell on hym. or that he was ware
And sette hym vp. in a full riche chare
A grete fol he was. to yeoparde his lyfe
for to dyscure. his counseyll to his wyfe
And yet she was. full loy for his sake
Specyally whan she sawe hym take
But I hope. that her heuynesse
Gav a swage. full sone by processe
In shorte tyme. whan that he was gone
There is no tempeste. that may lest euer in one
But this bysshop. by verray force and myghte
vnto Grekes. conueyed was full ryghte

How þ wyf
of amphyo
raz of con
science to sa
ue her othe
discured his
husbonde

This hore graye. in his chare sytting
 And they full glad. were of his comyng
 Hauyng a truste. and full oppynyon
 And though cause. and occasyon
 Of his wysdome. and his sapyence
 And by vertue. of his hye pience
 They sholde eschewe. all aduersytee
 Possyble to falle. as in her Iournee
 And as the storpe. fully hath deuyled
 Full circumspecte. and right well aduysed
 He hath pronounced. in the parlyamente
 To forne the lordes. and the presydente
 His clere conceyte. in verray spherne
 Not entyched with noo doublenesse
 Her dysmole dayes. and her fatall houres
 Her aduentures. and her sharpe houres
 The frowarde sorte. and the unhappy stoudes
 The complayntes. of her dedely woundes
 The wofull wrath. and the contrauerse
 Of fell Mars. and his cruelte
 And how by meane. of his gery mode
 There shalbe shed. all the worthy blode
 Of the Grekes. it maye not be eschewed
 If her purpose. be execute and sewed
 There is noo more. this shall be the fyne
 The hye noblesse. shall drawe to declyne
 Of Grekes blood. in myschyfe sorow and wo
 And with all this. I myselfe also

Tercia

As my fate. hath to some dysposed
Depe in the ground. I shall be enclosed
And locked vp. in the derke vale
Of cruell death. loo this was the tale
That the bysshop to Adrastus tolde
Hym counseylng. his purpos to withholde
In eschewyng. of more myscheef and sorowe
For all his goodes. he take vnto borowe
Of the Thebans. and the Grekes mete
The fyne therof. shall be vnsweete
That all Grece. after shall it rewe
warnyng hym. yf they the myscheef knewe
That shall folowe. that noo man maye lette
They wolde abstene. a lege for to lette
Vnto Thebes. and her purpos leue
With whos wordes. the lordes gay hem greue
And there in had. but full smale delyte
And euerychone. of hertly hys despyte
They abrayde. and sayd he was vntrewe
A contryuer. of prophecyes newe
And eke also. for his long berde
And olde dottarde. a cowarde and a ferde
And of rancoure. gay to despye
Bothe his calkylng. and his astronomye
And sayd shortly. they toke therof none hede
He wyll no thyng. gouerne hem after his rede
This was the clamoure. & noyse in euery coste
Of hys and lowe. thourgh oute all the hoste

And specially of the laudpours
 And of lordes. regnyng in floures
 And of the states. effectually I mene
 whiche of age. were but tender and grene
 That haue not had. by Martys Influence
 Of the werre. grete experyence
 Here yf ye lyst. ye maye consyder and see
 Of conceptes. full grete dyuersyte
 How that youthe. noo peryll caste a forne
 Tyll the myschpyse. sodeynly be borne
 Where as age prouydeth euery thyng
 Or he begynne. to casten the endyng
 youthe is gouerned by a large reyne
 To renne forth. and can not hym refrayne
 But of hede. sette on all attones
 As he that hurtlyth. agayn the harde stones
 Broleth hymselfe. vnwarly and parbraheth
 But age experie. noo thyng vndertaketh
 But to forne. of good dyscrecyon
 Make a due examynacyon
 How it wyll courne. other to bad or good
 But youthe as faste. as stered is the blood
 Take empyres. of hasty wylfulnesse
 Joye at gynnynge. the ende is wretchednesse
 The olde prudence. in all his gouernaunce
 full longe a forne. maketh purueaunce
 But youthe alas. by counseyll wyll not werke
 for whiche full ofte. he stumblith to the derke

How age &
 youthe beyn
 of dyuerse
 oppynions

Cercia

Thus selde is seey. the trowth to termyne
That age and youthe. drawe by one lyne
And where that folye hath denomynacyon
Wysdome is putte in to subiectyon
Lyke as this byshop. with all his hye prudence
For cause. he myght haue none audyence
All his wysdome. and his prophete
Of the Grekes. was holden but folye
For though Plato. and wyle Socrates
Morall Senek. and Dyogenes
Albumazar. and prudente Tholome
And Tullyus. that had soueraynte
Whylom in Rome. as of eloquence
Though all these. shortly in sentence
Were a lyue. moost connyng and experte
And noo man. lyfte her counseyll to aduerte
Nor of her lawes. for to take hede
What myght auayle. and it come to nede
For where prudence. can fynde noo socoure
And prouydence. hath noo fauoure
Fare well wysdome. fare well dyscrecyon
For lacke oonly. of supportacyon
For vnsupported. with his lockes hore
Amphyorax. syghen gay full sore
With hede enclyned. and many euyl thought
Whan he sawe. his counseyll stonde for nought
For vterly. the Grekes as I tolde
Haue fully caste. her Journey for to holde

How þe wyf
dom with
out suppo
racyon auay
leth lytyll
or nought

Made hem redy. and gonnen to hosteye
 Towarde Thebes. the Cyte to wettey.
 And forth with hem. Amphiporax they carye
 And in Grece. wyl noo lenger carye
 Sytte in his chare. with a doolfull herte
 whan he wylt. he myghte not alyste
 Of his fate. his dysposycyon
 And hostyng. in to the regyon
 Of Lygurgus. Grekes gay approche
 A sondy londe. with many a craggy roche
 But all the waye. sothly that they gone
 for horse nor man. water was there none
 Soo drye was the vales. and the playnes
 for all that yere. they hadde had noo reynes
 But full grete drought. as made is mencyon
 And all the londe. serchyng enuyron
 They nother fonde. well ne ryuere
 hem to refreshe. ne water that was clere
 But they alas. noo refuse ne conne
 Soo importable. was the shene sonne
 Soo hote on hem. in felde where they lay
 That for myscheef. man and horse gay dey
 Gapyng full drye. upward in to south
 And some putten. her swerdes in her mouth
 And spere hedes. in story as it is tolde
 Caluage her thurste. with the yron colde
 And of his lyfe. full many one dyspayred
 In this myscheef. and home agayne repayred

The grete
 myscheef þ
 grekes had
 of þ defaute
 of water

Tyll on a daye worthy Tydeus
 And with hym eke the kyng Campanous
 Of purpos rode thorough oute the countree
 If they myght any water see
 From coste to coste bothe fer and nere
 Tyll of fortune they entred an herbere
 With trees shadowed for the sonne shene
 Full of herbes and of floures grene
 wonder holsome both of syght and hayre
 There June a lady that passyngly was fayre
 Sytting as she vnder a laure tre
 And in her armes a lytyll childe had she
 Full gracypus of loke and of bylage
 And was also wonder tender of age
 Sone of the kyng borne to succede
 Called Lygurgus in story as I rede
 whoos hertly Joye and worldly eke dysporte
 All his myrthe pleasance and comforte
 Was in this childe of excellent fayrenesse
 And this lady myrroure of semlynesse
 All sodenly as she caste vp her syght
 And on his stede sawe an armed knyght
 Gretely abashed gay anone renue
 But Tydeus after gay to sue
 And sayd syster byth nothyng dysmayed
 In youre selfe dyspleased nor affrayed
 For we are come oonly to this place
 you to beseeche of mercy and of grace.

h i

 How tyde
 coplayneth

Pars

to the lady
in the erber
for water

As to socoure. in oure grete nede
Declarung you. how it stonde in dede
Here faste by. all moost at honde
The worthiest. of all Grekes sonde
Lynoges prynces. ben lodgyn in the felde
And many other. with pollax spere and shelde
Whiche in myscheef. parell and grete drede
For want of water. ben lykly to be dede
For there was none. of hye ne lowe degree
In all oure Dost. now passed dayes three
That dranke. alas excepte none estate
Dure vpage. is soo Infortunate
Prayeng you. of womanly pyte
Benygne. and graciously for to see
How of grece. all the chyualtre
Of her lyues. stant in ieopardye
That ye wolde of womanhede tell
If ye knowe. ryuer spyng or well
Specyally nowe. in all oure care
Of gentyllesse. vnto vs declare
Loo here is all. yf ye lyke to here
That ye wylle seyn. myn owne syster dere
And whan this lady Inly vertuous
The complaynte herde. of worthy Tydeus
Of verray pyte. changeth chere and hewe
And in her herte. vpon her woo gan rewe
And full goodely. seeng his dystresse
Sayde vnto hym. in all his heynesse

How the la
dy taughte
tydeus to p
well

Cercia

Certes quod she. yf I were at large
Touchyng this childe. of whom I haue charge
I holde in haste. of all that dooth you geue
To my power. helpen to releue
Donly of reuche. and compassyon
And leue all other occupacyon
Conueye you. and be youre trewe gyde
To a ryuer. but lytyll here belyde
But I dare not. soo moche me assure
This lytyll childe. to putte in auenture
I am soo ferfull. from it to departe
But for youre sake. that I in parte
My lyfe my dethe. of trewe affeccyon
To prouyde. for youre sauacyon
Toke the childe. and leyde it in her lappe
And richely in clothes. gay it wrappe
And couched it among the herbes soote
And leyde aboute. many holsom roote
And floures eke. bothe blew and rede
And supplyed. with a maner drede
With Tydeus forth anone she wente
As she in trouth. that noo treason mente
And in her waye. wolde she neuer dwell
Tyll she hym brought. to a right fayre well
And to a ryuer. of water right habonde
But who was glad. and who was tho Joconde
But Tydeus seeng the ryuer
Whiche in all the haste. sente his messenger

Pars

To Adrastus. and bade hym not abyde
But downe descende. to the ryuer syde
With all choost. recure for to haue
Acce this ryuer. her lyues for to saue
And this enbaste. hem making none abode
All attones. to the ryuer rode
For to drynke. they had soo grete luste
Of appetyte. for to stanche her thurst
And some dronke. and fonde it dyde them good
And some were soo feruente and soo wood
Upon the water. that in sghernesse
Through vndyscrete. and hasty gredynesse
Dute of mesure. the water soo they drynke
That they fyll dede. euen vpon the brynke
And some naked. to the ryuer ranne
Donly for hete. of the somer sonne
To bathe hem. the water was soo colde
And some also. as I haue you tolde
I mene tho. that prudente wery and wyle
The water dranke. in mesurable wyle
That of the thurst. they haue tofore endured
They were refreshed. fully and recured
And Grekes thay. of hye and lowe degree
For hye profyte. and grete commodyte
Compas the ryuer. crystallyn of syght
Of one accorde. there her tentes pyght
To reste hem. there to relees of her payne
Donly the space. of a daye or twayne

Tercia

And whyles Grekes. vpon the ryuer laye
This Tydeus. vpon the same daye
full knyghtly. hath doo his dylgence
This yonge lady. with grete reuerence
To Adrastus. goodly to presente
Atte whoos comyng. the kyng hymselfe wente
Agaynst her. she fallynge downe on her knees
All thestates. presente and degrees
Of grekes londe. absente was not one
And in his armes. toke her vp anone
Thankyng her. and of her belynesse
Of her labour. and her kyndnesse
Behotyng her. lyke as he was holde
If ony thyng. playnly that she wolde
That he maye done. she sholde it redy fynde
And Grekes all. the story maketh mynde
Of thestates. beyng tho presente
Thanked her. with all her hole entente
for the refresshyng. done to many a Greke
And for her parte. they behygght her eke
with her bodyes. and goodes bothe twoo
what her lyst. commaunde hem for to doo
To be redy platly. and not fayle
And here myne auctour. maketh rehersall
That this lady. soo fayre vpon to see
Of whome the name. was Jlyphyle
To Adrastus tolde. as ye maye rede
Lynealy the stok of her kynde

Pars

Whylom how she a kynges daughter was
Reherlyng hym. hole all the caas
fyfte why that she.oute of her countree wente
Shortly. for she nolde not assente
To execute. a conspyracyon
Made by the wymmen. of that regyon
A thyng contrarpe. and ayenste all ryght
That eche of hem. vpon a certayn nyght
By one accorde. shall warly take kepe
fader broder. and husbondes in her slepe
with knyues sharpe. and rasours bene
Lytte her throtes. in that mortall tene
Vnto this fyne. as Bochas tell can
In all that londe. be not founde a may
But slayn echone. to this conclusyon
That wymmen myght haue dompnacyon
In that kyngdome. to regne at lyberte
And on noo parte. interrupted be
But for this lady. passyng debonayre
To this morder. was froward and contrarpe
Lipte her fader. that he was not slawe
But fro the dethe. preserued and wythdrawe
for whiche alas. she fled the countree
And of a pyrat. taken in the see
To kyng Lygurgus. brougten in all drede
And for her trouth. and her womanhede
To her he toke his yong childe to kepe
whiche in the herber. alone lefte to slepe

Cecilia

whan Tydeus. she brought to welle
And by Jason. some booke telle
That this lady. had sones two
whan that he. and Hercules also
Towarde Colchos. by her countree cam
for to accomplishe. the conquest of the Ram
But who that lyst. by and by for to see
The story hole. of this Ilyphyle
Her faders name. of whiche also I wente
Though some seyn. he named was Toante
And some booke. Hermes the hym call
But to knowe. the auentures all
Of this lady. Ilyphyle the fayre
Soo faythfull ay. and Iuly debonayre
Loke on the booke. that Johan Bochas made
whylom of wymmen. with Rochoykes glad
And dyrecte. by full souerayne stile
To fayre Jane. the quene of Secyle
Rede there the Rubryshe of Ilyphyle
Of her trouth. and of her hye bountye
full craftely compyled. for her sake
And whan that she. hath her leue take
Of Alrastus. homewarde in her waye
Tydeus. gay her to conueye
To the gardeyn. tyll she is repayred
But now alas. my mater dylepeyred
Of all Joye. and of all welfulnesse
And destytute. of myrthe and all gladnesse

Jason

Hercules

Ilyphyle

Pars

Howe the
childe was
slayn with
a serpent

for now of woo. gynneth the sharpe shoures
for this lady founde. among the floures
her lityll childe. sourned vp the face
slayne of a serpente. in the selfe place
her tayle buried. with scales syluer shene
The venym. was soo persyng and soo hene
soo perylous. & the mortall vyolence
Caused alas. though her long absence
She was to slowe. homewarde for to hve
But now can she. but wepe wayle and crye
Now can she not. but syghen and complayne
And wofully. wryng her hondes twayne
Dedely of loke. pale of face and chere
And gay to rende. her gyfte tresses clere
And ofte syche. gay she saye alas
I wofull wretche. vnhappy in this caas
what shall I doo. or wheder shall I tourne
for this the fyne. yf I there sojourne
I wote right well. I maye not escape
The pyteous fate. that is for me shap
Socoure is none. nor there maye be noo rede
Lyche my decerte. but that I wote be dede
for thorough my slouth. and my nedygence
I haue alas. done soo grete offence
That my gyfte. I maye not excuse
Shall to the kyng. of treasoun me accuse
Thorough my default. and slouth bothe two
his sone is dede. and his heyre also

Tercia

whiche he loueth. more than all his gode
for treloure. none soo nye his herte stode
Nor was soo depe. graue in his corage
That he is lykly. to falle in a rage
whan it is soo. myne odious offence
Reported be. vnto his audyence
Soo Importable. shall be his heynnesse
And well wote I. in verray sochfastnesse
That whan the kyng. hath this espyed
To myne excuse. it maye not be denyed
I doubt it not. there geyneth noo pyte
with oute respyte. he will auenged be
Oy me alas. I haue deserued
That fro the deeth. I maye not be preserued
Noether by bylle. ne supplicacyon
for the rage. of my transgressyon
Requyret h. deeth. and none other mede
And thus alas. quakyng in her drede
None other helpe. ne remedye say
But dreynte in sorowe. to the Grekes ray
Of hertly woo. face and chere desteyned
And her chekes. with wepyng all berepned
In her affraye. dystRACT and furvous
To come all. she come to Tydeus
And fyll on knees. & gay her complaynt make
Tolde playnly. that for Grekes sake
She mote be dede. and shortly in substance
Reherlyng hym. the grete of her greuance

Pars

fyfste how by traynes. of false serpente
The childe was slayne. whyle she was absente
In what dysloynte. and perell that she stode
And whan that he. her myschyste vnderstode
Vnto her. full knyghely he behyght
To helpe and further. all that euer he myght
Her pyteous wo. to stynten and appeale
And for to fynde. vnto her dysleale
Hasty comforte. he wente a full grete pale
To Adrastus. and tolde hym all the caas
Of this vnhappy. wofull aduenture
Beslechynge hym. to done his bely cure
As he was bounde. of equyte and ryght
And aduertey. and to haue a syght
How she quyte her. to Grekes here to foine
Whan they were lykly. for to haue be lorne
The socour doyde. of her womanhede
Of whiche he muste. of knyghthode take hede
To remedye this vnhappy thyng
And Adrastus. lyke a worthy kyng
Taqyte hymselfe. the story maketh mynde
To this lady. wyl not to be founde vnkynde
Nothe for coste. nor for noo trauayle
But bely was. in all that myght auayle
To her socoure. considered all thynges
And by chaunce. of all the worthy kynges
Of Grekes londe. they bey accorded thus
Prynces dukes. and worthy Tydeus

Tercia

To holde her waye. and all attones ryde
To Lygurgus. dwelling there besyde
Of one entente. yf they maye purchase
In ony wyse. for to gete grace
For this lady. called Jsyphyle
They wolde assaye. yf it myght be
And to his paleys. full royall bylde of stone
The worthy Grekes. cam rydyng euerychone
Euery lord. full freshely on his stede
And Lygurgus. example of manlyhede
Anone as he knewe. of her comyng
Taquyte hymselfe. lyche a gentyll kyng
Agayn hem wente. to mete hem on the waye
full well besey. and in full good aray
Receyuyng hym. with a full kyngly chere
And to Adrastus sayde. as ye shall here
Colys quod he. and gay hym to embrace
ye be welcome. to youre owne place
Thankyng hertely. to your hye noblesse
That soo goodly. of youre gentyllesse
Towardes me. ye lyste you taquyte
your selfe daye. your Colys to dyslyte
In this castell. to make your lodgyng
That neuer yet. I was soo glad of thyng
And all my lyfe. and there to here my trouthe
And euermore. there shall be noo slouth
That the chambres. and the large toures
Shall be deluiered. to your herberys

Pars

That every lord. as is of degree
 Unto his lodgyng. assigned shall be
 Your officers. lette hemselfe deuyse
 If the housyng. maye largely suffyse
 To you and yours. stretchen and attayne
 That none estate. haue cause to complayne
 And all your host. lodged here belyde
 whiche in tentes. vpon you abyde
 Lette hem sette. by myne auctorite
 Hytaye you here in my cite
 And all that maye. hem socoure or saue
 And as a worde. all that euer I haue
 Is full and hole. at your commaundement
 Quod Adrastus. that is not our entente
 Nor is noo partye. cause of our comyng
 For we come. all for a nother thyng
 A certeyn gyfte. of you to requyre
 Benygne. yf ye lyst to here
 whiche maye Grekes. passyngly auayle
 Of your request. that ye not ne fayle
 whiche we dare not openly expresse
 withoute that ye wolde of gentyllesse
 your graunce a soine. conferme an ratyfye
 Than were we bolde. it to specyfye
 Quod Lygurgus. what thyng euer it be
 Nought excepted. by oonly thynges thre
 The fyrste thyng is it. toucheth not my lyfe
 My pong sone playnly. ne my wyfe

How adras
 t^r & all the
 stati of gre
 kes prayed
 lygurg^s for
 the lyfe of
 Hypphyle

Tercia

Take all my good. or what ye lyfte proude
 Of my trespoure. and sette these thre a syde
 All the surplus. I counte not as a myte
 Than Adrastus. astoned was a lyte
 whan Iygurgus in conclusyon
 Of his sone. dyde make excepcon
 And whyles they thus entreated I fere
 There come forth one. with a woofull chere
 Of face. of loke pale and noo thyng rede
 A lowde cryeth. the kynges sone is dede
 Alas the whyle. that whylom was soo fayre
 After Iygurgus borne. for to beu hayre
 The whiche alas. hath yolden vp the breste
 As a serpente. tongen vnto the dethe
 And with his wounde. newe freshe and grene
 In therber. lyeth that pyte is to sene
 And hath soo layen. all moost all this daye
 That whan Iygurgus harde this affraye
 And wylte his childe was dede. & had no moo
 Ipyll wounder. though that he were woo
 for sodeynly. the Importable smerte
 Ran anone. and hente hym by the herte
 That for constreyne. of his dedely peyne
 Thorough oute he felte. howeuer every veyne
 The rage gay myne. in hym soo depe
 That he can not. but sygh sobbe and wepe
 And with the noyse. and lamentacyon
 The quene distraught. is descended doug

The sorow
 we þ kyng
 Iygurgus ma
 de for þ de
 the of his
 childe & fla
 metacyon of
 the quene

Pars

And whan she knew. groude of all this sorowe;
 It nede her noo teres for to borowe
 But twenty tyme. by vpon a rowe
 A swoune she fell. vnto the grounde lowe
 And stounde mele. for this hye mylchaunce
 Scyll as stone. she lyggeth in a traunce
 And whan it. in to the courte was brought
 Therfore Lygurgus alas. I wpte hym nought
 Vpon the cors. with a mortall face
 He fell attoncs. and gay it to embrace
 Sore to grype. and agayn vp sterte
 That whan Adrastus. gan this aduerte
 Of kyngly reuthe. and compassion
 From his eyen. there teres fell down
 Eke kynges dukes. that aboute stode
 Only of pyte. that is in gentyll blode
 Noo power had the water to restrayne
 That on her chekes. downe gay to reyne
 But all a daye. wolde not suffyle
 All her sorowes. in order to deuyse
 fyrste of the kyng. and of the quene also
 To telley all. I sholde neuer haue do
 Nought in the space. all moost of an houre
 But whan the stormes. and sharphoures
 Of her wepyng. was somewhat ouer gone
 The lytyll cors. was grauey vnder stone
 And Adrastus. in the same tyde
 Lygurgus toke. alyte oute alyde

Tercia

And full wysely. with his prudente speche
The quene presente. gay hym for to teche
That soo to sorowe. auayle maye right nought
To morder hymselfe. with his owne thought
Synth los of deth. no may maye recure
Though he is woo. perpetuelly endure
All helpeth not. whay the soule is go
And oure lyfe here. who taketh hede cherto
Is but an exyle. and a pylgrymage
full of tourmente. and of bytter rage
Lyche a see. rennyng to and fro
Suyng an ebbe. whay the flode is do
Lytyll space. abydyng at full
Of whoos sojourne. the hope yeueth noo bull
Nor kyng is. nor duke ne Emperoure
That may hym shroude. agayn y fatall shoure
Of cruell deth. whay hym lyst manasse
To marke a man. with his mortall mace
That geyneth not. to his sauacyon
Nothor franchyse. ne proteccyon
And lytyll or nought. maye helpe to this caas
Saue conduyte. or superlydeas
for in this worlde. who loketh a ryght
Is none soo grete. of power ne of myght
None soo riche. shortly ne none soo bolde
That he muste dye. other yong or olde
And who in youthe passeth this passage
He is escaped. all the wood rage

Agayns de
the may be
no recure

All sorow and trouble. of this present lyfe
 Replenished. with conck warre and stryfe
 Whiche seide is neuer. stonde in suerte
 wherfore beste is. as seemeth vnto me
 Noo may grutch. but of hys prudence
 The sonde of god. take in pacience
 And ye that be soo manly to
 your lyfe to drowne. in cournement and in we
 for losse of thyng. that ye lyte to see
 whiche in noo wyse. recured may be
 Is grete foly. and vndyscrepon
 And thus Adrastus. hath conueyed down
 The substance hole. of that he wolde save
 Tyll that he sonde. a tyme for to praye
 Conuenyent. for Jlyphyle
 Selechyng hym. for to haue pyte
 Of that she hath. his hyghnesse
 Not wylfully. but reklelesse
 fyrste that he wolde. his domes to deuyde
 Mercy preferte. and sette right alyde
 Alte requeste and prayer. of hem all
 Of this unhap. and myscheef that is befall
 By hasty rygoure. and not to vengauce
 But thyng a forne. in his puruauce
 who to wretches. dooth mercy in her drede
 Shall mercy fynde. what he hath moost nede
 And lyth he hath. power myght and space
 Lete hym take this lady to his grace

Cercia

for lacke of ruth. that she nought dys
But tho the guene. gay ayen replie
And placly sayde. as in this mater
Auayleth not. request nor prayer
pyte mercy. noo remysyon
But yf it be. by this condycyon
But yf the serpente. cause of all this sorowe
Though his labour. leye his hede to borowe
This is fynall. and better recompense
To fynde grace. for her grete offence
Di shortly shede. blode for blode
And whan the Grekes. her answer vnderstode
All of one accorde. in her beste wyle
Toke on hem. this auentures empyrle
for loue oonly of Ilyphyle
And gay to ryde. enuyron the countre
By hylles vales. roches and eke caues
In dyches darke. and in olde graues
By euery coste. serchyng vp and downe
Tyll at laste. full famous of renowne
The worthy knyght. Parthonolope
was the fyrste. that happed to se
This hydeous serpente. by a ryuer syde
Grete and horryble. stern and full of pryde
Vnder a roche. by a banke lowe
And in all haste. he hent a sturdy bowe
And there in sette. an arrowe fyled kene
And thrugh the body. spotted blew and grene

How par
thonolope
sawe fyrste
this serpet

Pars

full myghtely. he made it for to glyde
 And rente oute a swerde. hangyng by his syde
 Smote of his hede. and anone it hente
 And therewith all. gay the quene presente
 Where thorugh. her sorow parcell gay a swage
 And thus of prowesse. and of hye corage
 This manly may. Parthonolope
 Hath reconlyed. fayre Jlyphyle
 Unto grace. fully of the quene
 Her yre auoyed. and her olde tene
 And by Adrastus. medycyon
 Lyng Lygurgus. graunted a pardon
 To this lady. that from all daunger fre
 She was restored. to her lybette
 In her paleys. all her lyte to dwell
 Though Johan Bochas. the contrarye tell
 For this auctour. affyrmed oute of drede
 That wha this childe. was by the serpent dede
 She durste not. for her grete offence
 Neuer after come in presence
 Of Lygurgus. but of intencion
 fled anone oute. of that regyon
 Acte herte she toke. the chylde's dethe soo sore
 what fell of her. I fynde can noo more
 Than ye haue herde. me a fore specyfy
 And the kyngdome. but hookes lye
 Of Lygurgus. was I called trace
 And as I rede. in a nother place

Nota
 De Ligur
 g^o rege reg

Tercia

He was the same myghty champion
 To Athenes. that cam with palamon
 Agaynst his brother. that called was Arcyte
 Lad in his chare. with .iiii. holes whyte
 vpon his hede. a wreth of golde full fyne
 And I fynde eke. how Bachus god of wyne
 with this kyng. was whylom at debate
 Only for he. pompous and elate
 Destructyon dyde. to his vynes
 And for he fyrste. allaye sette on wyne
 Meynte water. where they were so strong
 And this Bachus. for the grete wrong
 Brake his lymmes. and dreynte hym in the see
 Of Lygurgus. ye gete noo more of me
 But the trouthe. yf ye lyste verryfy
 Rede of goddes. the genealogye
 Lyneally. her kynrede by degrees
 Ybraunched oute. vpon twelue trees
 Made by Bochas. Decertaldo called
 Amonge poetes. in Itaple staled
 Next frauncys. petrarke supng in certayn
 vnto Grekes. I wyll retourne agayn
 To telle forth. shortly yf I canne
 Of her Journey. that they haue begonne
 How Adrastus. hath his leue take
 Of Lygurgus. with his browes blake
 And departyng. with saynt Johan to borowe
 Made his wardes. on the next morowe

ni tracee

Bachus de
us vinu

Notadu de
 xii arboribz
 in libro bo
 chacii de ge
 neologya
 deoz

Pars

Soo well beleeve. soo myghty and soo stronge
wonder erly. whan the larhe longe
with a trompette. warned euery may
To be redy. in all the haste they can
for to renne. and noo lenger lettynge make
And soo they haue. the ryght waye take
Towarde Thebes. the Grekes euerychone
That such a nombre. gadered in to one
Of worthy knyghtes. neuer a forne was layne
whan they in fere. moustren in a playne
And they ne stynte. by none occasyon
Tyll they become. euen a forne the towne
And pyght her tentes. proude as I rede
vnder the walles. in a grene mede
And whan the Thebans. weren besette aboute
The manly knyghtes. wolde a pylued oute
And haue scarmesshed. in her lusty pryde
with her fomen. on that other syde
But by byddynge of Etyocles
All chylke nyght. they kepte hemselfe in pees
By cause oonly. that it was soo late
with grete awayte. set at euery gate
Men of armes. all the nyght wakynge
On the walles. by byddynge of the kyng
Leste there were. treynes or treason
And on the toures. and in the chyfe dongon
He sette vp men. to make mortall souns
with brasse hornes. and lowde claryons

Tercia

Of full entente. the watches for to kepe
In his warde. that noo may ne slepe
And Grekes proudly. all the long nyght
Lyndly fyres. and made full grete lyght
Set vp lodgynge. vpon euery syde
Lyke as they sholde. euer there abyde
Compas the towne. there was noo voyde space
But all belette. her fomen to manace
And whyles they. a forne the Lytee lape
On euery coste. they sente oute the forraye
Brente townes. thorpes and byllages
With grete Raayne. makynge her pyllages
Spoyle and robbe. and brought home byrtaile
And all maner sortes of bestaile
Shepe and neet. and in her cruell rage
With houndes slowe. all that was sauage
Herte and hynde. both buk and do
The blak boze. and the wylde Roo
The fatte swyne. and the tushy boze
Laryng all home. for the Grekes store
Whete and wyne. for her auantage
Hay and otes. foder and forage
With this kalendes. as hem thynk due
Grekes gay the Thebans to salue
Mynstryng hem. occasyons fell
The sege sette. shortly for to tell
Of full entente. in her hatfull pryde
For lyfe or deth. there vpon to abyde

the forraye
the Grekes
made
in f coultre
aboute the
bes

Pars

Who soo ever therwith be agreued
 Tyll they fully. her purpos haue achened
 There maye therof. be maked noo reles
 And of this. full ware Echyocles
 Gan in partye. gretely meruayle
 Whan that he sawe. the grete apparayle
 Of the Grekes. the Cytee rounde aboute
 And in hymselfe. had a maner doubt
 None atte poynte. what was beste to doo
 For thylke tyme. it stode with hym soo
 That to some. abydyng in the towne
 He had in herte. grete suspeccon
 Leste towarde hym. they were unstable
 And to his brother. in partye fauorable
 For in the Cytee. there was varyaunce
 Whiche vnto hym. was a grete melchaunce
 For in his nede. shortly he ne wiste
 Upon whome. that he myght truste
 For they were not all of one entente
 For whiche he hath. for his counsell sente
 All his lordes. and the olde quene
 Whiche as he dempte. were pure and clene
 Hole of one herte. and not varyable
 Of olde experie. and alwaye founde stable
 Requyryng hym. by cause they were wise
 All openly. to tellev her auple
 Where it where. bet playnly in her syght
 With his brother. to treaten or to fyght

The vary
 ance in the
 bes p cytee
 among he
 selfe

Tercia

And some gave. a full blonte sentence
whiche had of werte. none experyence
Sayde it was beste. and not be aferde
To trye his right. manly with his swerde
And some also. that were more prudente
Spake vnto hym. by good aduysmente
And lyste not sparr. but theyre conceyte tolde
How it was beste. his couenante for to holde
And to perfourme. his beste made to forne
To his brother. lyche as he was sworne
Soo þ his sworde. the wors to make hym spede
Be not founde vartyaunte. fro noo dede
for none hatred. rancoure nother pryde
And tho the quene. toke hym oute a syde
Tolde hym playnly. it was vnlytting
Suche doublenesse. to fynde in a kyng
And sayd hym eke. all though he were strong
To his brother. how he dyde wrong
As all the towne. wyll recorde in dede
And bere wytnesse. yf it came to nede
Wherfore lete vs shape a nother mene
In this mater. whyle that it is grene
Or this quarell. gonne of volunte
Tourne in the fyne. of more aduersyte
for yf it be. darreyned by batayle
who trusteth moost. maye lykely fayle
And it is foly. by shoite aduysmente
To put a stryfe. in Martis Jugemente

Nota
The wors
des of þ que
ne Iocasta
vnto ethyo
cles þ kyng

How perys
lous it is to

Pars

be godned
by Marces
in ony qua
rell.

for harde it is. whay a Juge is wood
To treate a foine hym. withoute losse of blood
And yf we putte it hole in Marte
That with the swerde. his lawes dooth coarte
Thay may it hap. where ye be glad or lothe
Thou and thy brocher. shall repente bothe
And many a nother. that is here presente
Of youre trespase. that bey Innocente
And many thousand. in caas shall complayne
for the debate. oonly of you twayne
And for youre stryfe. shalte synde full vnswothe
And for thou arte. gynnynng grounde and rothe
Of this Iniurye. and this grete vnrpyghe
To the goddes. that here of haue a syghe
Thou shalte a countes. and a rekenyng make
for all tho. that perysshe for thy sake
And now the cause. dryuen is soo ferre
Sodeyn peas. or hasty warre
Muste folowe anone. for the fatall chaunce
Of lyfe and deth. dependeth in balaunce
And noo man maye by noo crafte restrayne
That vpon one. plasly of these twayne
The sorte mote falle. lyke as it dooth come
Whos that euer. laughe or moine
And thou arte dryue. soo narowe to the stake
That thou mayste not. mo delays make
But fyghte or treate. this quarell for to fyne
Be none engyne. thou canste it not declyne

Tercia

As hasty calle. as folke seyn that ben wyse
Redresse requyreth. by full shorte auple
for to treate longe. now auayleth nought
for to the poynte. sothly thou arte brought
Eythre to kepe. thy possessyon
Or in all haste. deuoyde oute of this towne
where thou therewith. be wroth or well apayde
Now note well. all that I haue sayde
And by my counsell. wysly condescende
wrong wrought. of olde newly to amende
The tyme is come. it wyll be none other
wherfore in haste. treate well with thy brother
And ageyn hym. make none resystence
But to thy lordes. fully geue credence
By whoos counceyll. syth they be soo sage
Lette polynyte. reioyse his herytage
And that shall tourne. moost to thyne aueyll
Loo here is hole. the tyme of oure counceyll
And shortly tho. for verray yre wroth
Though he therto. frowarde was or loth
Accorded is. heryng all the pres
If he algate. treate shall for pees
It muste be. by this condycyon
That he wolde haue. the domynacyon
fyrste in chyfe to hymselfe reserued
As hym thought. he had it well deserued
And saue to hym. hole the soueraynte
And vnder hym. in Thebes the Cyte

He to graunte. with a right good chere
 Polymyte. to regne for a yere
 Than auoyde. and not resorte agayne
 for more to cleyne. was not but in vayne
 Thus wolde he done. oonly for her sake
 And other wyle. he wolde none ende make
 with the Grekes. what fortune euer falle
 And fynally. among his lordes all
 There was not one. of hye ne lowe estate
 That wolde gone on ballate
 Dute of the towne. nother for bette ne worse
 Tyll Iocasta. made sadell her horse
 And caste her selfe. to gone for this treate
 To make an ende. yf it wolde be
 And this was done. the morowe right by tyme
 Upon the houre. whay it drowe to pryne
 And with her went. her yong daughters tweyne
 Antygone. and the fayre Imeyne
 Of her meyne. full many one aboute
 At gate she was conueyed oute
 And of purpos. she made fyrste her wente
 On horse bak. to the kyng Adrastus tente
 He and his lordes. beyng all 3 fere
 And they resceyue her. with right glad chere
 Suyng her. lyke to her degre
 On every halfe. full grete humanyte
 Polymyte rysyng. fro his place
 And humbely. his moder gay embrace

Cercia

Lyfled her. and thau Antygone
And Imeyne. excellent of beaute
And for that they were pallyngly fayre
Grece was the pres. concours and repayre
Of the ladies. for to haue a syght
And Jocasta. procedeth anone ryght
To Adrastus. her mater to purpose
And gay to hym. openly dysclose
Thentente and wyll. of Echyocles
And by what mene. he desyreth pees
To hym reserued. as she can specyfye
The honour and hole. and the regalye
With the septure. & crowne fro hym not deuyded
But hole to hym. as he hath prouyded
And Polymyte. vnder this condycyon
Vnder hym to regney. in the tow
As a subgette. by suffraunce of his brother
But the Grekes. thoughten all a nother
And specyally. worthy Tydeus
Playnly affermyng. it sholde not be thus
for he wyll haue noo condycyons
But sette a syde. all excepcyons
Noo thyng reserued. as in specyall
But hole the lordshyp. regaly and all
Polymyte. it fully to possede
In Thebes crowned. betrayly in dede
As ryghtfull kyng. put in possessyon
Lyche the couenantes. and conuencyon

The alwe
re of tyde
to þ quene

I made of olde. assured and effealed
 whiche shall not now. of newe be repleted
 But stabyll and hole. in his strengthe stonde
 And lete hym soo. placly vnderstonde
 And fyrste þ he. deuoyde hym out of the towne
 And delyuer. the septure and the crowne
 To his brother. and make there of noo more
 And shortly ellys. it shall be bought full sore
 Or this mater. brought be to an ende
 For Grekes is there none. þ shall hens wende
 Or that oure right. whiche is vs denyed
 With lyfe or dech. dereyned be and tryed
 We ne wpll. erst fro this towne rennewe
 And yf hym lyst. all this to eschewe
 And all myschyfe. stynten and appease
 To eyther parte. he maye doo grete ease
 Thus I mene. for his auantage
 Delyuer vp hole. the trewe herytage
 To his brother. for a yere to endure
 And Grekes shall hym. fully assure
 By what bounde. that hym lyst deuylse
 The yere complete. in oure best wyle
 To hym delyuer. ayeu possessyon
 Withoute stryfe. or contradyccyon
 And to his syne. Justly holde vs to
 And yf it falle. that he wolde not so
 Lete hym not wayte. but oonly after warre
 The houre is come. we wpll it not deferre

Cercia

Loe here is all. and thus ye maye reporte
To hym agayne. whan that ye resorte
fro whiche a poynte. we caste vs not to varie.
And yet to hym. Amphipozar contrarie
full playnly sayde in conclusyon
This fyne shall cause a destruccyon
Of hem echone. yf it forth procede
To be perfourmed. and executed in dede
But thylke tyme. for all his eloquence
he had in loth. but lypyll euydence
for where soo euer. it mente good or yll
Lying Adrastus. had hym to be skyll
And tho Jocasta. as wysdome dyd her teche
humble of her porte. with full softe speche
Gay seke meanes. in her fantasye
If she myght. the pre modestye
Of the Grekes. to make hem to enclyne
In ony wyle. her rancoure for to fyne
She dyde her deuoyre. and her besy cure
But tho befell. a wounder aduenture
Cause and grounde. of grete confusyon
Grekes perturbyng. and eke the towyn
And it telle. maye not me alyste
for whiche a while. my stile I mote dyuerse
And shortly telle. by descrypcyon
Of a Tyger. dwellyng in the towyn
whiche from a kyngdome. besyden adiacente
Dute of Egypte. was to Thebes sente

Whiche beste. by recorde of scrypture
 Is moost swyfte. as of his nature
 And of his kynde. also moost sauage
 And moost cruell. whay he is in his rage
 And as clerkes. makey mensyon
 He of body. resembleth to a lyon
 And lyke a greyhoulde. the mollell and the hede
 And of eyen. as ony fyre rede
 Eke of his shynne. wryten as I fynde
 Lyke a panter. conuersaunte in ynde
 With all maner. hues and colours
 And is full ofte descepued with myrrours
 By fraude of hunters. and false apparence
 Shewed in glas. withoute exsistence
 Whay his kyndes. ary by sleight I take
 And he descepued. maye noo rescule make
 And lyke a lambe. was this Tyger tame
 Byen kynde. myne auctour wryte the same
 And this beste. merueylous to se
 Was sente. to Jmeyne and antygone
 Whiche vnto hem. dyde grete comforte
 And coude playe. and make grete dysporte
 Lyke a whelp. that is but yonge of age
 And to wright. dyde noo damage
 Noo more in south. than dooth a lytyll hounde
 And it was worth. many a houldred pounce
 Vnto the kyng. for ay in his greuaunce
 There was no thyng. dyde hym more plesaunce

Tercia

That for no tresoure. it myght not be bought
For whay that he was. in penlyfe or in thought
It put hym oute. of his heuynesse
And thylke tyme. the story dyde expresse
That Iocasta. treated for a pes
This tame Tyger. in partye rebles
Dute of the gates. in lyght of many a man
In to the felde. wyldly oute ran
And casuelly. rennyng to and fro
In and oute. as dooth a tame Ro
Grekes wenyng. that were yong of age
That this Tyger. had be sauage
And cruelly belettyng all the place
Rounde aboute. gay hym to enchase
Tyll he was dede. and slayn in the felde
The dech of whome. whay that they behelde
The proude Thebans. whiche on y walles stode
They ronne downe. full furyous and wode
wenyng he had. bey slayn of despyte
Takynng her hors. withoute more respyte
fully in purpos. with Grekes for to fyght
The Tygers dech. tauenge yf they myght
And oute they rode. withoute gouernayll
And full proudely. Grekes gay assayll
And of hatred. and hye dysdayne
fyll vpon hem. that haue the Tyger slayne
And cruelly quytten hem her mede
That many Greke. in the grene mede

Pars

By the force. and the grete myght
 Of her soney. laye slayne in the syght
 The Tygres dethe. soo dere they a bough
 Soo mortally. the Thebans on hem wrought
 That all the Dolle. in the felde lyggyng
 was astoned. of this lodeyn thyng
 And in this whyle. of rancoure reckles
 Dute of Thebes. rode Ethyocles.
 And with hym the worthy kyng Tremoure
 Of his honde a noble wettpoure
 That made Grekes. to forsake her place
 And to her tentes. gay hem enchace
 And myd the felde. as they togyder mette
 On horse bake. with speres sharpe whette
 Of betray hate. and enuyous pryde
 full many one. was dede on euery syde
 The whiche thyng. whan Tydeus espyeth
 wood as a lyon. to hors bak hyeth
 As he that was. neuer a dele aferde
 But ran on hym. and mette hem in the berde
 And maugre hem. in his crueltee
 He made hem flee. home to her Lytee
 hem pursuyng. of full dedely hate
 That many one. laye slayn at gate
 Gapyng vpryghtes. with her woundes wyde
 That vterly. they durste not abyde
 There for the swerde. of this Tydens
 He was on hem. soo passyng furpous

The grete
 mahode of
 worthy ty/
 deus

Tercia

Soo many Theban. he rose to the herte
That when Jocasta. the slaughter gan aduerte
Polymyte. she gan praye full fayre
To make Grekes. home agayne repayre
And that they wolde stenten to assaile
for thylke daye. and leasen her batayle
Atte whoos requeste. playnly and prayer
And at reuerence. of his moder dere
Polymyte. hyr herte to comfote
Grekes made. home ageyn resorte
And Tydeus to stynten. of his chace
And they of Thebes. hastyng a grete pace
full tryste and heuy. ben entred in to the towne
And for the Tygre. in conclusyon
As ye haue herde. fyrste began this stryfe
That many Theban. that daye losse his lyfe
And reculees. haue yolden vp the breth
In chauengyng. of the Tygre is deeth
And all this whyle. duely as she ought
The quene Jocasta. humbly besought
Lyng Adrastus. oonly of his grace
Some mene waye. wylly to purchace
To make a peas. a twene the brethern tweyne
And the treate. soo prudently ordeyne
On eyther partye. that noo blood be shad
And this Adrastus. wyle and ryght sad
for Grekes partye. answere gaue anone
That other ende. shortly gete she none

Pars

Lyche as the lordes. fully ben aduysed
That Tydeus. hath to some deuysed
And whan she sawe. it maye none other be
She leue toke. and home to the Lyte
She is reseyred. haupng to her gyde
Polymyte rydyng by her syde
And Tydeus. lad Antygone
And of Archadye. Prothonolope
The worthy kyng. dyde his bely peyne
To be attendaunte. vpon fayre Ineyne
Whos herte she hath. to her seruyce lured
And he agayne. hath purtrayed and fygured
Myd of his breste. that lyghtly maye not passe
Hole the fetures. of her freshely face
Hym thought she was. soo fayre a creature
And though that he. durste not hym dyscure
Yet in his herte. as ferforth as he can
He hath auowed. to be hyr trewe man
Vnwyte to her. playnly and vnknowe
How he was marked. with Cupydys bowe
With his arowe. sodaynly werreyed
And to the pate. the ladyes conueyed
Ben entred in. for it drew to eue
Grekes of hem. takyng tho her leue
Though some of hem. were lothe to departe
yet of wysdom. they durste not inparte
Vnder a conduyte. to entrey in to the towne
Leste it tourned. to her confusyon

Tercia

Though some booke the contrarye sayn
But myn auctoure. is platly there agayn
And fermeth. in his oppynyon
That Tydeus. of hys dyscrecyon
Of wylfulnesse. nor of folye
Ne wolde as tho. putte in partye
Nocher hymselfe. ne none of his feres
And the ladyes. with heuently chere
Angelyke. of loke and contenaunce
Lyche as it is putte. in remembraunce
Acte her entryng. fro Grekes in to the towne
Polymyte. of grette affeccyon
The quene besought. thylke nyght not fyne
for to assaye. yf she myght enclayne
Ethpodes. of consyence and ryght
To kepe couenaunte. as he hath behyght
full yere ago. with the superlulage
Leste the contrarye. tourne to damage
fyrste on hymselfe. & syth on many other moo
And thus from Thebes. the Grekes bey a goo
To her tentes. and reste hem all the nyght
And Lucyna the mone. shone full bryght
within Thebes. on the chyfe dongon
whan Jocasta. made relacyon
Vnto the kyng. and tolde hym all the gyle
how that the Grekes. vtterly despyse
his profer made. by false collusyon
Donly excepte. the conuencyon

Pars

Of olde engroled. by grete putueaunce
That is enrolled. and put in remembraunce
Upon whiche. fynally they wyll reste
Hym conseylyng. her though for the beste
To conferme hym. to that he was bounde
Leste in the tyme. falsnesse hym confounde
But all her counseyll. he sette at noo pryce
He dempte hymselfe. soo prudence and soo wyse
For he was wyfull. and he was Indurate
And in his herte. of malysse obstynate
And utterly aduysed. in his thought
within Thebes. his brother gette right nought
And in his erroure. thus I lete hym dwell
And of Grekes. forth I wyll you tell
Whiche all that nyght. kepte hemselfe close
And on the morowe. whan tytany a rose
They armed hem. and gan hem redy make
And of assente. haue the felde I take
With the Thebans. that day oute of doughte
For to fyghten. yf they yllue oute
And Adrastus. in full crysty wyse
In the felde. his wardes gan deuyse
As he that was. of all deceytes ware
And rycheley armed in his chare
Amphiporax come. with his menye
full renowned. of antyquyte
And well experte. by cause he was olde
And whyle that Grekes. as I haue you tolde

Tercia

were belyeste. her wardes to ordeyne
Myd of the felde. befell a caas sodeyne
full vnhappy. lochsome and odyble
And lyche a thyng. that were Inuysyble
This olde bysshop. with chare & houle certeyn
Dysapered. and noo more was seyn
Only of fate. whiche noo man can expelle
The erthe openeth. and he fyll downe to helle
With all his folke. that vpon hym abode
And sodeynly. the grounde that he on stode
Closed agayn. and togyder shytte
That neuer after. Grekes with hym mette
And thus the deuell. for his olde outrages
Lyche is deserte. payde hym his wages
for he full lowe. is descended down
To to the darke. and black rogyon
where that Pluto. is crowned and Jstalled
with his quene. Proserpyna called
with whome this bysshop. hath made his mans
Perpetuelly. as for his guerdon
Loo here the mede of ydolatre
Of ryghtes olde. and of false mammentre
Loo what auaylen Incantacyons
Of exorisyms. and conuysions
what stode hym stede. his nygramantye
Calculacyon. or Astronomye
what bayled hym. the heuenly mansyons
Dyuerte aspectes. or constellacyons

How bys
shop aphis
raz sodeyn
ly fell dow
ne into hell

Pars

The ende is not. but sorowe and myschaunce
Of hem that sette. her utter assyaunce
In suche werkes. superstycious
Or truste on hem. he is vnglacious
Reorde I take. shortly for to telle
Of this byshop. sonken downe to helle
Whooa wofull ende. aboute in every coste
Suche a rumor. hath made in the oste
That the noyle. of this vncouth thyng
Is I conne. and I come to the kyng
How this vengauce. is vnwardly falle
And he anone. made a trompette calle
All his people. oute of the felde agayne
And everychone. assembled on a playne
Tofore the kyng. and also rounde aboute
Every may of his lyfe in doubte
Full pyteously. gay to froune and loure
Leste that the grounde. hem all wolde deuoure
And swalue hem. in his darke haue
And they ne can. noo recure hem to saue
For neyther force. ne manhode may hem auayle
In suche myschyfe. the value of a mayle
For he that was wyleste. coude moost
To serche and seke. through oute all the oost
Amphyoar. whay he lest wende
To helle is sonken. and can not hym defende
To hym the tyme. vnknowen and vnwyte
In whom whylom. was all the Grekes tryte

Tercia

Her hole comforte. and her affyaunce
But all attones. for this sodeyn chaunce
And this mylchyste. they gay hem all dyspeyre
Home to Grece. that they wyl repeyre
This was the purpos. of hem everychoon
And on the walles. of Thebes lay her soon
Reioysyng hem. of this unhappy cure
Wenynge therby. gretly to recure
And on her towres. as they loke oute
They on Grekes. enuyously gay shoute
And of despyte. and grette enuyte
Had hem soles. gone home to her contre
Syth they haue lost. her comforte & her socoure
Her fals prophete. and her dysynoure
Where thurgh. her parte gretly is appeyred
And in this wyse. Grekes dyslespeyred
Dempte playnly. by tokens eydent
This case falle. by sonde enchantement
By wytchecraft. or by false sorcerye
Agaynste whiche. maye be noo remedye
Trylky defence. helpe nor socoure
And whan Adrastus. herde this clamoure
He besy was. agayns this perturbance
To prouyde. some maner cheuplance
And to hym calleth. suche counsell as he wyte
For lyfe or deth. that he myght truste
Requyryng hem. but in wordes fewe
In this mylchyste. her mocyon to shewe

Pars

And declare by good auylemente
what to Grekes. were moost expedyente
To remedye. and make noo delaye
The vncouth noyle. and the grete affraye
That Grekes made. with clamour Importune
And nowe and nowe euer. to one contune
And they þ were. moost manly & moost wysse
Shortly sayd. it were a grete cowardyse
The emprise. that they haue vndertake
for drede of dethe. soo sodenly forsake
It were to hem. a perpetuell shame
And oure hyndryng. vnto Grekes name
And better it were. to euery werryoure
Manly to deye. with worshyp and honoure
Than lyke a cowarde. with the lyfe endure
for ous shamed. harde is to recure
his name aye. of what estate he be
And syth Grekes. of olde antyquyte
As of knyghthode. who soo lyst take hede
Bey soo famous. and soo renomede
If now of newe. the shynnyng of her fame
Eclipsed were. with any spot of blame
It were a thyng. vncouth for to here
Of whoos renow. the bemes yet bey clere
Through all þ world. where as they haue passed
And bey not yet. dyrked ne defaced
By noo reporte. neyther on see ne on londe
Thyng to forsake. that they toke on bonde

Tercia

And by ensample. of oure progenytours
That whylom were. soo manly conquerours
To forne that we. in to Grece wende
Of thyng begon. lete vs make an ende
And parte not. nor leuere fro this towne
Tyll it be brought. to destruccyon
walles toures. crested and embatayled
And for werre. strongly apparayled
Be fyrste downe. bete that noo thyng be seyn
But all togyder. to the erthe pleyyn
Be lowe layde. or that we resorte
That afterwarde. mey maye of vs reporte
That we began. knyghely we haue achened
hpon oure foyn. with worshyp vnreproued
This was the counsell. shortly and chaupse
Of the Grekes. that manly were and wyle
That none afoyn. were marked with no blame
And specyally. suche as drede shame
And fully caste. what fortune euery tyme
On her purpos. to the ende abyde
That on noo parte. her honour not appall
And this counsell. Grekes one and all
Dey condescended. for more happy spede
In stede of hym. that was soo late dede
Amphoroar. buryed depe in helle
That coude whylom. to the Grekes telle
Of thynges hyde. how it shall falle a forne
In stede of whome. now they haue hym lorne

How Gre
kes chosen
hem a new
dyuynoure
in p^ltede of
aphyrozax p^r
bysshop

They casten hym. wylly to purchase
Some prudence may. to occupye his place
That in suche thyng. myght hem moost auayle
Thorough storye. of his dyuynayle
By craftte of sorte. or of prophecie
If ony suche. they coudey oute espye
And among all. her purpos to attayne
As I fynde. they haue chosen twayne
Moost renomed. of hem everychone
And Menolyppus. called was that one
And Tardynus. eke that other hyght
And for he had. moost fauoure in her syght
This Tardynus. was chosen and preferred
And her choys. Grekes haue not arred
For whylom. her lerned is empyse
Of his mayster. Amphyrozax the wyle
And was dyscyplyne. vnder his doctryne
And of entente. that he shall termyne
Vnto Grekes. thynges that shall fall
And as bysshop. mytred in his stall
Done for hym. in many vncouth wyle
In the Temple. to goddes sacryfyle
And thus confermed. and stalled in his see
And fell dayes. stode in his degree
After his mayster. with full grete honoure
Of Grekes chose. to be successoure
And all this tyme. in story as it is tolde
Full grete myschylte. of hunger thrust and colde.

Tercia

And of Thebans as they pssued oute
Lape many one slayn in the route
On eyther parte. of fortune as they mette
Her mortall swerdes. were soo sharpe whette
And Tydeus. among hem of the towne
fro daye to daye. playeth the lyon
Soo cruelly. where soo that he rode
That Thebans none. a foine his face abode
He made hem. thrugh his hye renon
Soo grete slaughter. and occasyon
That as the deth. fro his swerde they fled
And who came next. leyde his hede to wed
He quyte hymselfe. soo lyke a manly knyght
That where he wente. he put hem to the flyght
And maugre hem. in his crueltee
He drofe hem home. in to theyr Lytee
Hem pursuyng. proudly to the gate
That vnto hym. they bare soo dedely hate
That they hem caste. by flyght or some engyne
To bryng hym. vnwarely to his fyne
And leyde awayte. for hym daye and nyght
But o alas. this noble manly knyght
Vpon a daye. as he gan home enchase
And mortaly made. hem to lese her place
And sued hem. almoost to the towne
That cause was. of his destruccyon
for one alas. that on the walles stode
whiche all that daye. vpon hym abode

Paris

How pytes
ously wor
thy tydeus
was slayn
w^t a quarel

How he
flow tyde
called was
menolipp⁹

With a quarel. Sharp beded for his lake
Marked hym. with a bowe of brake
Soo cruelly makyng. none areste
Tyll it was passed. bothe back and breste
Where though alas. there was none other rede
Nor lechecraft. that he mote be dede
There maye therof. be made noo delayes
And yet was he. holden in his dayes
The beste knyght. and the moost manly man
As myne auctoure. well reherse can
But for all that. was there noo defence
Agayn the stroke. of dethes vyolence
And Sochas wyte. or he was fully dede
He was by Grekes. presented with the hede
Of hym that gaue his laste fatall wounde
And he was called. lyke as it is founde
Menolippus. I can not other telle
But thylke daye. Thebans were soo felle
Upon Grekes. that vnder her Lyte
The manly kyng. Parthonolope
Slayn was. euen a forne the gates
And there also. armed bryght in plates
The famous kyng. called ypomedon
The same daye. as made is mencyon
On horse back. manly as he faught
Atte brygge. euen vpon the draught
Belette with pres. casuelly was drowned
And thus fortune. hath on Grekes frowned

Tercia

On every syde. thylke unhappy daye
But all the maner. telley I ne maye
Of her fyghtyng. nor her slaughter is sothe
More to declare. than myn auctour dothe
But thylke daye. I fynde as ye maye see
Whan phebus. passed was merydyen
And fro the south. westwarde gan hem drawe
His gylte tresses. to bathe in the wawe
The Theban kyng. fell Ethyodes
Kote of vnreste. and causer of unhappes
The slaughter of Grekes. whan þ he behelde
Armed in stele. he come oute in to the felde
full delyrous. in that sodeyn herte
Polymyte. atte good leyser to mete
Syngulerly. with hym to haue a doo
for in this worlde. he hated noo man soo
He sette soo nye. emprented in his herte
whoos comyng oute. his brother gan aduerte
Vpon his stede. in the oppolyte
And had agaynwarde. also grete delyte
To mete hym. pf fortune assente
Thenuyous fyre. soo her hertes brente
with hate cankred. of vnhynde blode
And lyke twoo Tygres. in her rage wode
with speres sharpe. grounde for the nones
Soo as they ray. and mette bothe attones
Polymyte. thrugh plates mayle and shelde
Rose hym thrugh out. & smote hym in to þ felde

Pars 1003

But whan he sawe. the streames of his blood
 Rayle aboute. in maner of a flood
 All to depnly. of compassyon
 fro his courser. he a lyght down
 And bretherly. with a ppteous face
 To saue his lyfe. gay hym to vnbrace
 And fro his wounde. of newe affeccon
 full bely was. to pull oute the tronchon
 Of loue oonly. handlyng hym ryght softe
 But o alas. whyle he laye a losse
 full proussly. Echpodes the fell
 Of all this sorowe. derryay sours and well
 with a dagger. in all his paynes smerte
 his brother smote. vnwardly to the herte
 whiche all her lyfe. had be soo wrothe
 And thus the Thebanis were slayne bothe
 Atte entre. euen a foine the towne
 But Grekes tho ben auayled downe
 Oute of the felde. the worthy knyghtes all
 And in Thebes londe. as ony shall
 The Cytee arole. whan her kyng was dede
 And to the gates. armed fote and hede
 Out of the towne. come many proude Theban
 And some of hem. vpon the walles ran
 And gay to shoute. that pyte was to here
 And they withoute. of her lyfe in where
 withoute comforte. or consolaccon
 Dylespytred. ronne home to the town

How eue/
 ryche of p
 theban bre
 thery flow
 oter to fo/
 rey the cyte

Tercia

And Grekes folowen after atte back
That many one.that daye gooth to wrack
And as her fomen.proudly hem assayle
Full many grekes.through plates & through may
was shet through.oute pressyng at walles
And beten of.whiche with grete rouoe balles
That here laye one.and a nother ponder
And the noyse.more hydeous than thonder
Of gonne shotte.and arblastes eke
So londroue rong.that many worthy Greke
There losse his lyfe.they were on hem soo fell
And at the gates.shortly for to tell
Atte Grekes pres.to entrey the Lytee
They of Thebes.in her crueltee
With hem mette.full furyous and wode
And mortally.as they agayn hem stode
Men myght see.speres shynen a sonder
That to beholde it was a verray wonder
How they feyne.with daggers & with swerdes
Thorough the dyser.hauyng at berdes
Persyng also.through the rounde mayles
Rente oute peces.of her auantayles
That nought auayleth.the myghty gestray
Through breste & neck.& the myghty speres ray
Her wepenes were.soo sharpe grounde & whette
In there armure.that there were noo lette
For there laye one.troden vnder fote
And ponder one.persed to the herte rode

Pars

Howe alle
the gentyll
blood of þ
lond of gre
kes of the
bes þ Lyte
destroyed
was vpon
a daye

Here lyet one dede. and there a nother lame
This was the playe. and the moicall game
Aetwene Thebans. and the Grekes proude
That the swonnes. and the eyes loude
Of hem that laye. and yolden vp the goste
Was herde full fer. aboute in many coste
And atte gates. and saylyng of the wall
I slayne was. all the blood Royall
Both of the towne. and of Grekes londe
And all the worthy. knyghtes of her honde
And of lordes. I shall not fayne
On grekes syde. a lyue were but twayne
Lyng Adrastus. and Campaneus
That daye to hem. was soo vnglacous
And for tytaw. westred was soo lowe
That nomay myght. vnneches other knowe
Tho of the towne shette her gates faste
With barres rounde made. for to laste
In whiche noo wyght. herne maye ne hewe
And Adrastus. with a Grekes fewe
Repeyred is home. vnto his tente
And all that nyght. he hasted and spente
For his unhap. in sorowe complaynyng
And they in Thebes. the next daye lyng
Her deuyte dyde. and her hely cure
To ordeyne. and make a sepulture
For her lyng. I slayne in the felde
And offred vp. his baner and his helde

L 1. missing

Tercia

It were a deeth. to ony man a lyue
And yf I sholde. by and by dyscyrne
Theyre tender wepyng. and her wofull bale
Her complayntes. with faces dede and pale
Therof I myght. make a newe tale
All moost. a daye you to occupye
And as myn auctoure. clerely dooth certefye
Thorough oure Grece. fro all the Regyons
Oute of Epteas. and Royall towns
Come all the ladies. and wymmen of estate
Full heuy chered. and dysconsolate
To this assemble. to for as I you tolde
I purpose fully. her Journey for to holde
Towarde Thebes. these sorowfull creatures
There to bewaile. her wofull auentures
Taquyte hemselfe. of trouth in womanhede
To her lordes. whiche in the felde laye dede
And as the story. lyketh to declare
All this Journey. they wente on fote bare
Lyke as they had gone. on pylgrymage
In token of mornynge. barbed the dyslage
Wympled echone. and in burnette wedes
Not in chares. drawen forth with stedes
Nor on palstraps. blake neyther whyte
The sely wymmen. coude hem not delyte
To holde her waye. but bare fote they wente
Soo faythfully. euerychone they mente
Thorough heupnesse. defaced of her hewe

warde thes
bes

Pars

And as I fynde. they were all trewe
Now was not that a wonder for to see
Soo many trewe. oute of oo colitree
Attones gadred. in a compaigne
And feythfull all. bohes can not lye
Bothe in her porte. and Inward in metyng
Vnto my dome. it was an vncomthe thyng
Among a thousande wymmen or twayne
To fynde one. that coude in herte fayne
It was a meruayle. not ofte seen a fowne
For selde in felde. groweth ony corne
But yf some wede. spryng vp there among
Meyn allaye wyne. whan they be to strong
But her trouthe. was meyne with none allayes
They were soo trewe. fonde at all assayes
And they ne stynte. vpon her Journee
Tyll that they come. there as they wolde be
Where Adrastus wyrted. as I fynde
Laye in his tente. all of coloure ynde
Gretly meruayled. whan that he behelde
The nombre of hem. sprad thurgh all the felde
Clad all in blacke. and bare sore euerychone
Oute of his tente. he dressed hym anone
Vpon his honde. the kyng Campanus
Full tryste to herte. and face ryght pyteous
Agayn the wymmen forth. they wente I fere
And to beholde. the wofull chere
The wofull eyes. also whan they mette

Tercia

The sorowfull syghes. in her brestes shette
 The teres newe. distylling on her faces
 And the swoonyng. in many sondry places
 Whan they her lordes. alyue not ne founde
 But in the felde. thrugh gyfte with many wound
 Laye starke vpryght. playnly to endyte De
 with dedely eyes. courned vp the whyte
 who made sorowe. or felte her herte ryue
 for her lorde. but the fayre Argpye
 who can now wepe. but Deryphyle
 Tydeus for she. ne myght fele
 whoos constrayntes. were soo kene
 That Adrastus. myght not sustene
 To beholde the ladyes. soo complayne
 wysshyng her herte. parted were on twayne
 But yet alas. bothe eue and morowe
 A thyng there was. that doubled all her sorowe
 That olde Creon. fader of felonye
 Ne wolde suffre. thourgh his tyrannye
 The dede bodyes. be buryed neyther J brente
 But with bestes. and houndes to be rente
 He made hem all. vpon an hepe be layde
 wherof the wymmen. cryste and euyl apayde
 for verray dooll. it was no wonder
 her hertes felte. all moost reyne a sonder
 And as my mayster. lyst to endyte
 All clad in black. with her wimples whyte
 with grete honoure. and due reuerence

how cursed
 Creon wyl
 not suffre
 bodyes ney
 ther to be
 buryed ne
 to be brent

Pars

In the Temple. of the goddesse Clemence
They abode the space. of forty nyght
Tyll Theseus. the noble worthy knyght
Duke of Athenys. with his chyualrye
Repeyred home. out of flemynye
And with hym ladde. full fayre vpon the sene
Thorough his manhode. Ipolyta the quene
And her suster. called Emelye
And whan these wymmen. gan fyrste espye
This worthy duke. as he came rydyng
Lyng Adrastus. hem all conueyng
The wymmen brought. to his presence
Whiche hym besought. to geue hem audyence
And all attones. swounyng in the place
full humbly. prayed hym of grace
To rewe on hem. her harmes to redresse
But yf ye lyst. to see the gentylnesse
Of Theseus. how he hath hym borne
Yf ye remembre. ye haue herde it to forre
well reherced. at Depforde in the vale
In the begynnynge. of the knyghtes tale
fyrste how that he. whan he herde hem speke
for verray reuthe. felte his herte breke
And her sorowes. whan he gan aduerte
fro his courser. downe anone he sterte
hem comfortyng. in full good entente
And in his armes. he hem all vp hente
The knyghtes tale. reherseth euery dele

How the fy
nall destruc
cion of thes
bes is com
pendiously
reherced in
the knyghts
tale

Tercia

fro poynte to poynte. yf ye loke wele
And how this duke. withoute more abode
The same daye. towarde Thebes rode
full lyke in sothe. a worthy conqueroure
And in his Dste. of chyualrye the floure
And fynally. to speken of this thyng
with olde Creon. that was of Thebes kyng
How þ he faught. & slow hym lyke a knyght
And all his oolt. put vnto flyght
yet as some autours make mencyon
Of Theseus entred. in to the towne
wymmen fyrste. with pykers and with malles
with grete laboure. bete downe the walles
And in her wrytynge. also as they saye
Campaneus. was on the walles slayn
with caste of stone. he was soo ouerlade
for whome Adrastus. such sorow made
That no man myght. hym relees of his payne
And Jocasta. with her daughters twayne
full wofully. opressed of her cheres
To Achenes. were sente as prysoners
what fell of hem. can I not seyn
But Theseus. myne autoure wryte certeyn
Dute of the felde. or he from Thebes wente
He bete hit downe. and the houses brente
The people slowe. for all her cryeng loude
Made the walles. and her towres proude
Rounde aboute. euen vpon a rowe

The bones
of her lordes
were de
liuered to
the ladyes
by duke the
seus

With the soyle. to be layde full lowe
That nought was lefte. but the soyle all bare
And to the wymmey. in relees of her care
The bones of her lordes. that were slayne
This worthy duke. restored hath agayne
And what sholde J. than lenger dwell
The olde rytes. by and by to tell
Nor the obsequyes. in order to deuyle
Nor to declare. the maner and the gyle
How the badyes. were to ashes brente
Nor of the gomes. in the flamme spent
To make the ayer swetter of reles
As frankensence. myrre and aloes
Nor how the wymmey. rounde aboute stode
Some with mylke. and some also with blode
And some of hem. with vynes made of golde
Whan the ashes. fully were made colde
To enclosen hem. of grete affectyon
And bere hem home. in to her regyon
And how that other. full dedely of her lorde
For loue oonly. of the bones toke
Hem to kepe. for a remembrance
That to reherse every obseruance
That was done. in the fyres bryght
The wake playes. during all the nyght
Nor of the wastlyng. to tell poynt by poynt
Of hem that weryn. naked and enoynt
How everyche other. lugge gay and shabe

Cercia

Now how the wynnemen. haue theyr lene take
Of Theseus. with full grete humbleste
Thankyng hym. of his worthynesse
That hym lyst. on her woo to rewe
And how that he. his fredome gay renewe
with the wynnemen. of his hys larges
I parted hath eke. of his ryche
And how this duke. Thebes eke forsoke
And to Athenes. the ryght waye toke
with laurer crowned. in sygne of victoie
And the palme. of conquest and gloie
Dyde his honoure. duely to Marte
And how the wemen. wepte whan they departe
with kyng Adrastus. home ayeu to Arge
To tell all. it were to grete a charge
And eke also. as ye sholde vnderstonde
Atte gynnyng. I toke noo more on honde
By my promyse. and in conclusyon
But to reherse. the destruccyon
Of myghty Thebes. shortly and noo more
And thus Adrastus. with his lockes hoie
Styll abode. in Arge his Lyte
Vnto his ende. ye gete noo more of me
Saaf as myn auctoure. lyketh to compyle
After that. he lyued but a whyle
for he was olde. or the sege began
And thought and sorowe. soo vpon hym ran
The whiche in sothe. shorted hath his dayes

How shyn-
ge Adrast^s
with the la-
dyes reple-
red ayeu ho-
me to Arge

Mars

four hundred yere to
forn the fū
dacō of ro
me was the
bes fynaly
destroyed

And tyme sette. deeth maketh noo delays
And all his Joye. palled was and gone
for of his lordes. a lyue was not one
But slayn at Thebes. ye knowen all the cas
And what this kyng. in Arge buried was
full royally. with grete solempnytee
It was accompted. in booke ye maye see
four hundred yere. as made is mencyon
To forne the byldyng. and foundacyon
Of grete Rome. soo Royally and soo large
whan the ladies. departed fro Arge
To her cōtrees. full cryste and desolate
Loo here the fyne. of conteke and debate
Loo here the myght. of Mars the myghty sterre
Loo what it is. to gynne a werre
How it concludeth. ensample ye maye see
fyrste of Grekes. and next of the Lytee
for eyther parte. hath mater to complayne
And in her stryfe. ye maye see thynges twayne
The worthy blood. of all Grece spylte
And Thebes eke. of Amphyon fyrste bylte
withoute recure. brought in to ruyne
And with the soyle. made playn as a lyne
To wyl dernesse tourned. and deserte
And Grekes eke. falle in to pouerte
Both of her men. and also of her good
for fynally. all the gentyll blood
was shad oute there. her woundes were soo wyde.

Cercia

To lose fynall. vnto eyther syde
for in the werre. is none excepcon
Of hye estate. nor lowe condyccon
But as fortune. and fate bothe 3 fere
Lyfte to dyspose. with her double chere
And Bellona. the goddesse in her chare
A some prouydeth. therfore eche may beware
Vnaupled. a werre to begynne
for noo may wote. who shall lese or wyne
And harde it is. whan eyther parte leseth
And doubteles. neyther of hem cheseth
That they muste. in all suche mortall rage
Maugre her lyfte. folowe grete damage
It maye not be. by mannes myght restrayned
And werre in loth. was neuer fyrste ordeyned
But for synne. folkes to chastyle
And as the byble. trully can deuyse
Hye in heuen. of pryde and surquedye
Lucyfer. fader of enuye
The olde serpente. he Leupathan
was the fyrste. that euer werre began
whan Mycaell. the heuenly champpon
with his fers. baynquysshed the dragon
And to helle. caste hem downe full lowe
The whiche serpente. hath the bockell lowe
Thorough all eich. of enuye and debate
That vnnethes. is there none estate
Withoute stryfe. can lyue in charyte

Nota
How þe wer
re fyrst bes
gan in heu
en by pry
de & surque
dye of prou
de Lucyfer

Para

for every man. of hye and lowe degre
Enuyeth now. that other sholde thryue
And groude and cause. why that men so lryue
Is couetyse. and false ambycyon
That everyche. wolde haue domynacyon
Ouer other. and trede hym vnder fote
whiche of all sorowe. gynnynge is and rote
And cryste recorderh. rede the boke & ye maye se
for lack of loue. what myschyfe there shall be
for oo people. as he dooth deuple
Agayn a nother. of hate shall aryse
And after tellyth. what dysplyons
There shall be. at wene regyons
Everyche belyde other to expresse
And all suche stryfe. as he bereth wytnesse
Lialendes bey. I take his worde to borowe
And a gynnynge. of myschyfe and of sorowe
Men haue it founde. by experyence
But the venym. and the vyolence
Of stryfe of werre. of contek and debate
That maketh londres. bare and desolate
Shall be proscrippte. and voyded oute of place
And Martys swerde. shall noo more manace
Nor his spere. greuous to sustene
Shall now noo more. whetted be soo kene
Nor he noo more. shall his hauberk shake
But loue and peas. in hertes shall awake
And charyte bothe. in lengthe and brede

Surget
gens con
tra gentē
Luce xxi

Cercta

Of newe shall. her bryght beames spede
Thorough grace oonly. in dyuers nacyns
for to reforme. atwene Regyns
Peas and guyete. concord and vnyte
And he that is both. one and two and thre
Eke thre in one. and souerayn lord of pease
whiche in this cyle. for oure sake thes
for loue oonly. oure troubles to termyne
for to be borne. of a pure virgyne
And lete vs praye to hym that is moost good
That for mankynde. shed his herte blood
Through beleschyng. of that heuenly quene
Wyfe and moder. and a mayde clene
To sende vs peas. here in this lyfe presente
And of oure synnes. parfyte amendemente
And Joye eternall. whay we hens wende
Of my tale. thus I make an ende

A M E N

¶ Here now endeth as ye maye see
The destruccyon of Thebes the Cytee

